

DOCTOR'S

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50176

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History of the USS Walke

JANUARY 21, 1944

Commissioned at Boston Navy Yd.

February - 12-15-

Washington, D.C. - 1st of Class.

February 15 - departed on Shakerdown.

February 20 - Arrived in Bermuda, W.I.

March 24 - departed Bermuda for Boston.

March 27 - Arrived in Boston.

April 10 - departed Boston for Norfolk.

April - 12 - 15 - Norfolk, VA.

April - 15 - departed for Key West, Fla.

April - 18 - Arrived Key West, Fla.

MAY 2 - Arrived in Norfolk, VA.

MAY 18 - left Norfolk, VA.

MAY 19 - Arrived in Brooklyn, N.Y.

MAY 20 - left Brooklyn for Liverpool, England.

MAY 28 - Arrived in Greenock, Scotland.

left same night for Portsmouth, England.

JUNE 1 - Arrived & left Portsmouth.

Arrived Plymouth, Eng.

June 5 - left Plymouth for INVASION of France.

June 6 - INVASION of Normandy.

June 24 - INVASION of Cherbourg.

June 27 - left Plymouth for Belfast Ireland.

July 1 - Arrived Belfast, Ireland.

July 3 - left Belfast, Ireland for U.S.A.

July 5 - Appendectomy during storm.

July 9 - Arrived Boston Navy Yd.

August 19 - departed Boston.

August 22 - Portland, Me.

August 23 - departed Portland arrived New London, Conn.

August 26 - Arrived Norfolk.

August 30 - Departed Norfolk & Tidewater for Panama.

Sept. 3 - Arrived Panama, C.Z.

Sept 5 - Departed Panama, C.Z.

Sept 13 - Arrived San Diego, Cal at Repair Base.

Sept 18 - Left San Diego, Cal.

Sept 25 - Arrived Pearl Harbor.

Oct 23 - Departed Pearl Harbor for Eniwetok, Marshall Islands & North Carolina, & D.D.S.

Oct 25 - Appendectomy - (Ole Gus).

Oct 27 - Passed International Line

Oct 30 - Arrived Eniwetok.

Oct 31 - Departed Eniwetok & Aboard for MANIS Islands.

November 1 - Started Equator Riter

November 2 - crossed equator & proper initiation.

November 5 - Arrived Vlothi, Carolina Islands - Departed late in afternoon for unknown destination &

North Carolina, 4 cruisers, 3 Carriers (Yorktown, Enterprise & (Vh). & 18 destroyers - TASK FORCE 38

November 6 -

At sea - destination unknown - North Carolina CV's Portland, Louisville, Minneapolis, Wichita,

New Orleans, San Diego - Carriers - Yorktown,

Enterprise, Bunker Hill & San Jacinto.

26 destroyers -

Cooper sank sub today. Walker is picket ship -

weather - rough & rainy.

Wrote Irving to write.

Message to Mac Holder Bombed MANILA by other part of T.F.

7 November 44

Warned of coming typhoon - up at 1:30 G.M. because of surface contact.

Refueled at sea from North Carolina.

Wrote Sug to be at Gotluck

8 November

In middle of typhoon - wind 60 miles an hour - No place to go without getting wet - In bed most of day reading - too rough to do anything else -

Wrote Sug

Rendezvous to T. F. that bombed Manila

9 November

At sea 600 miles from Philippines
3 Task Groups of 3rd Task Force
composed of 4 BB - 12 carriers plus
CU + DD

Sea calmer but still rough -
Rumor that this task force
(Old 58) was going to mid. Tokyo

10 November 44.

Steaming at 25-30 knots toward Philippines - entire Task Force to intercept a Jap fleet composed of 4 BB 4 heavy cruisers - 3 light cruisers + 3 destroyers. Planning to have a dawn attack on the above force. We are making plans to have a busy day tomorrow & the Jap plans that will come out to meet us - Hope old Walkie takes it in good shape.

11 November 44

General Quarters from 0500 to 1900 -
50 miles off of Samar, Philippines Is.,
Sent 2 carrier task raids to get
Jap shipping off of Samar West,
1st raid sunk or damaged 3 DD's +
1 CU + 1 FTB. 2nd raid severely
damaged or sunk 4 DD's - 4 Axis -
Refueled from Broker Hill - just
enough to tide over any attack.
Fighter cover shot down 1 twin
engine bomber in sight - 1 plane
shot down diving, latter
picked up pilot. 5 raids

PACIFIC FLEET:

CARRIER PLANES DELIVERED SHATTERING BLOWS AGAINST THE HARD WORKS OF MANILA AND CAVITE ON SUNDAY, BLASTING ENEMY SHIPPING AND DOCKS AND DESTROYING 28 MORE JAPANESE PLANES. ATTACKING PLANES TORPEDDED A FLOATING DOCK IN THE MANILA AREA, BADLY DAMAGED A JAPANESE LIGHT CRUISER, BLEW UP TWO ENEMY DESTROYERS AND SANK OR DAMAGED 11 OIL TANKERS AND FREIGHTERS AT THE PIERS OR AT ANCHOR. THEY ALSO STRUCK AT AIRFIELDS ON LUZON AND SHOT UP 130 TO 140 ENEMY PLANES CAUGHT ON THE GROUND.

today -
board during
over board
(see Exec),

0 miles off
tankers.
Enterprise
(C.T.G. 38.4)
consisted of
town & many
transferred
weeks.
strike

turned by
Served.
No time to
Bunker Hill
nite - today
during the
Woods Su

12 November
Up at 6
of Phillippi.
Transferred
(C.T.G. 38.3)
over horizon
4 B.B., 4 CA
cu's & DD's
Refueled
mail for
Announced
Manila tomorrow.

13 November 44
50 miles off Luzon - strike
consisted of 30 planes - strike II of
85 planes & strike III of 50 planes
Furious enemy opposition met -

both to & from Manila - many planes
lost -

Bunker Hill lost man overboard - not
recovered - 1 Hellcat hit water - pilot
not rescued - 1 Hell Diver - downed - both
men rescued.

General Quarters from 1400 to 2000 -
Several snoogers shot down - one raid of
15 planes broke up by fighters.

Retired 50 miles during nite - ready
for attack tomorrow

14 November 44

2nd Attack on Manila & Manila Bay -
reported very effective.

General Quarters from 1400 to 1900 -
and from 1920 - 1945.

4 snoogers shot down by fighters -
Sunset 45 Bettys came over - unable
to see them - dropped try fail to
jam radar - made no attacks on
carriers - several ships opened
fire.

Retired at nite to refueling
area. Rescued 3 men today from a
T.B.F. Nine injured.

turned back by fighters.
Served sandwiches only today -
No time to eat.

Bunker Hill lost man overboard during
nite - totals 13 men lost overboard
during this trip (includes one Exec),
Wrote Sug a letter.

12 November 44.

Up at 6:30 - ship - 200 miles off
of Philippines - waiting for tankers.
Transferred 18 pilots from Enterprise
(L.T.G. 38.3) to USS Essex (L.C.T.G. 38.4)
over horizon - latter group consisted of
4 B.B., 4 Carriers (Essex, Yorktown) & many
C.O.'s & P.D.'s.

Refueled from tanker - transferred
mail for first time in 2 weeks.
Announced we were to strike
Manila tomorrow.

13 November 44

50 miles off Luzon - strike force
consisted of 30 planes - strike force of
85 planes & strike force of 50 planes -
fierce enemy opposition met -

both to & from Manila - many planes
lost -

Bunker Hill lost man overboard - not
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area. Rescued 3 men today from a
T.B.F. Nine injured.

15 November 44

Course S.E. from Luzon, P.I. Proceeding to refueling area to rendezvous with tankers on 16th

Nothing of interest today - water was choppy.

Tokyo's raid has been postponed because of increase pressure by Japs on M^r Arthur's men on Leyte. Japs are landing reinforcements.

16 November 44

24 days since had food on land. Refueled at sea today from tankers. No mail received - mail was taken off. No orders -

Proceeding westward toward Philippines with 2 task groups - waiting further orders. Bunker Hill leaves for States - Hornet takes her place -

17 November 44

Proceeding westward 400 miles from Leyte. Awaiting further orders. We wonder where the next strike will be? Hope now soon.

Mail was delivered by destroyer - received 3 letters (26, 27, & 28 Oct) from Sug - 1 letter & 1 Navy card from Mother. Sure was glad to hear from them. Tonight I write a long letter to Sug.

25 days since had food on land. Picket ship.

18 November 44

Proceeding toward Luzon, Northern part, for strike, on 19th from carrier force. Refueled at sea from tanker - took off mail.

Ingram (DD 694) & Wichita left for Pearl Harbor for repairs. Alabama - joined our force today. Also Pasadena. We now have 4 carriers, 1 BB - 7 CV & numerous DD's.

Saw Iowa & New Jersey at short distance - they are in one of the 3 T.G. Ships everywhere - must be 1/2 Pacific Fleet in this task force. North Carolina, South Dakota, & Washington - in another T.G.

19 November 44.

50 miles off Luzon planes hit
Manila Bay Area + Mindoro Islands.
Planes patrolled Area over Air fields.
Very few planes lost.

Had 3 General Quarters during the
day. One at Sundown - Task force
attacked by many planes - 12-15
planes shot by ships and Air
patrol.

Retiring for night - sea slightly
rough.

Walsey said today with no opposition
on Luzon 38 T.F. will retire and
strike somewhere else. Maybe
Formosa, CHINA COAST or Tokyo.

20 November 44

Underway to Ulithi, Marshall
Islands. Sea very rough.

21 November 44

Underway to Ulithi -
SEA still rough. Arrive in
Port tomorrow -
30 days since on land.

22 November 44.

1500 Arrived in Ulithi - went to
Ammunition ship and stayed along
side for the night.

Did not go off of the ship -
SAW "Swing Shift Music."

23 November 44

Ulithi - transferred Navikunch
to USS Solace - talked with
J.W.S. Carpenter - SAW Mac Holder
Received 10 letters from Sug.

24 November 44

Ulithi - went on liberty to Mog
Mog Island - what a place - native
huts still standing - officers club -
a native hut with a bar -
everybody drunk - gambling every-
where. New skipper arrived today

25 November 44

Ulithi - had relieving ceremony
of command. Com. Palm went
to Sumner. Bullett - received
Bronze Star award - No.

Mail - saw Scott & Jim Smith.
Received 3 letters at night. Captain
G.F. DAVIS - new skipper.

Monday

27 November

departed from Ulithi 0630 with
Com Desron 60 - minus Ingraham
destination Keyte Gulf - P.T. to be
Assigned to M³ Arthurs 7th Fleet.

Anti-aircraft practice in afternoon.
P.T. boat practice at 2200.

28 November - 44.

Under way for Keyte - G.Q. practices
almost entire day. 2 quarts of whiskey
returned.

29 November 44

Arrived Keyte 1300 - Anchored very
close to beach - had G.Q. twice
during afternoon and again at
1900. Under way at 2000 -
destination unknown - smoke covered
us in harbor - plenty of all
types Amphibs, ship.

30 November 44

Keyte Gulf - had sunrise attack
didn't get to our formation. Refueled
from New Mexico - had morning
Alert - took picked place -

Received orders for next operation.
Discussed in Wardroom - to attack
[redacted] by land and sea - leave
here [redacted] Wake with 10DD's
act as escort protection for
LST's and LCI. Very dangerous
route up [redacted] - surrounded
on all sides by Jap held islands.
Wrote Sug a letter.

1 December 44.

Keyte Gulf - on patrol - refueled
in AM - picked up 50 bags mail for
transfer - 3 hospital patients from
Colorado - resulting from suicide
dives.

Next operation orders delayed for
3 days because of weather. Subs
in mid Keyte Gulf at sunset -
results from torpedoes not
known.

2 December 44

Leyte Gulf - 2 G.Q. during day -
Took on supplies from Supply
Ship.

Watched bombing by
Filippino Natives - very clever
Wrote Sug short note -

3 December 44

Leyte Gulf at Anchor - this morning
everyone surprised when Comdr. Zahn's
Des Div 120, ~~Salat~~ (Cooper) was
known to have made a night attack on
Ormoc Beach - they were to have Army
Air support but none showed up - there-
fore they took a severe beating - were
under constant attack from air for
3 1/2 hours - also had PT boats & shore
batteries - firing on them. Were said to
have sunk a transport and Jap DP.
Our losses USS Cooper (DD 695) sunk
no survivors - USS Sumner - numerous
shrapnel holes over entire forward
part of ship from near bombs -
8 casualties - none killed - USS Moate
bomb hit in after engine room

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS ON LEYTE—
ONE BATTLE unit in the night off the west
coast entered Ormoc Bay and, despite air
attacks and shore
fire, engaged three
enemy vessels, be-
lieved to be destroy-
ers, entering the har-
bor, sinking one and
damaging a second.
One of our destroy-
ers was sunk by
what was probably a floating mine. The
majority of the crew was rescued.

DESTROYER
RAID OFF
ORMOC

marks - 3 men

This leaves 7 ships in CDR 60-
and only Walker - none scared -
hope her luck keeps up -

Tonight learned 129 men & 9 officers
survivors of Cooper was
picked up by PBY's.

Tonight learned there would be
a large scale attack on 7 December
on Ormoc beach.

4 December 44

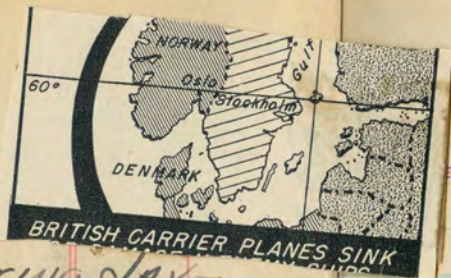
Leyte Gulf at anchor - 2 Air attacks
during day - took on diesel oil in
afternoon.

Wrote Sug

5 December 44

Leyte Gulf - at anchor - no Air
attacks during day. Received
our orders for invasion of
Ormoc beach - Zero hour 0650.

7 December - 12 DD's will
escort the invasion force
and will furnish anti-aircraft
and fire-power support.



2 December 44

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Took on supplies from Supply
Ship.

Watched bumbariting by
Filippino natives - very clever
Wrote Sug short note -

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everyone surprised when Comdr. Zahn's
Des Div 120 [redacted], (Moale & Cooper) WAS
known to have made a night attack on
Ormoc Beach - they were to have Army
Air support but none showed up - there-
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3 1/2 hours - also had PT boats & shore
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have sunk a transport and Jap DP.
Our losses USS Cooper (DD 695) SUNK
No survivors - USS Sumner - numerous
shrapnel holes over entire forward
part of ship from near bombs -
8-casualties. none killed. USS Moale
bomb hit in after engine room

Numerous strafing marks - 3 men
Killed - 20 wounded.

This leaves 7 ships in CDR 60-
and only Walke - none scared -
hope her luck keeps up -

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and will furnish anti-aircraft
and fire-power support.

Will be a tough task - hope everyone including myself pulls thru. USS Mugford torpedoed on ~~the~~ Ormoc run - is being towed in tonight. Next 2 months will be very busy ones - for this squadron.

Wrote Sug XMAS letter - and a sort of farewell letter in case of a accident to myself.

6 December 44

Left Leyte Gulf at 1130 with 9 DD's proceeding to rendezvous with 9 APD's, 4 LST's, + 38 LCI's. Convoy got under way at 1400 - for ~~the~~ ^{Primo} Beach where one Division of infantry is to land. Area A is being swept by mine sweeps first.

PT boats made raid on ~~the~~ Ormoc Beach tonight followed by raid by DD's

Nite is pitch dark for which we are thankful. Now have 12 DD's as escorts. Walke dropped 12 depth charge.

Tonite had a big RAID on Leyte Harbor by Jay Plans. 1 DD + 2 cargo vessels hit.

ORC
IN
DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS: PHILIPPINES:

A COMMUNIQUE FROM GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR TODAY TOLD OF A LANDING OF UNITED STATES SEVENTY SEVENTH DIVISION TROOPS AT ORMOG. ENEMY HELD PORT ON LEYTE ISLAND IN THE PHILIPPINES AND A SUICIDE ATTACK BY JAPANESE PARATROOPERS NINETEEN MILES FROM TAGLOBAN ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ISLAND.

FOUR LARGE LOADED TRANSPORTS. THERE WERE TWO SMALL TRANSPORTS AND SEVEN DESTROYERS IN THE CONVOY. AN ADDITIONAL JAPANESE CONVOY OF SIX SMALL SHIPS APPROACHING LEYTE AT NIGHTFALL ALSO WAS WIPED OUT.

JAPANESE PLANES HIT THE AMERICAN CONVOY AT ORMOG AFTER THE TROOPS HAD BEEN PUT ASHORE. ONE AMERICAN DESTROYER AND A SMALL TRANSPORT WERE LOST.

THE LANDING WAS THE FIRST TIME THE SEVENTY SEVENTH DIVISION, COMMANDED BY MAJOR GENERAL ANDREW BRUCE OF TEMPLE TEXAS, HAD BEEN USED IN THE PHILIPPINES. THE DIVISION PARTICIPATED IN THE CONQUEST OF GUAM.

ordered to pick up - Mahr's survivors - received - 238 men aboard - 31 Medical cases - able to take care of wounded - in little trouble. Worse case was shrapnel wound head. Underway to join convoy at 1200. Suicide

Will be a tough task - hope everyone including myself pulls thru. USS Mugford torpedoed on ~~Moore~~ Orange rd - is being towed in tonight. Next 2 months will be very busy ones - for this squadron.

Wrote Sug XMAS letter - AND A sort of farewell letter in case of a accident to myself.

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ARMOC DIVISION

A JAPANESE CONVOY OF THIRTEEN SHIPS WHICH WENT INTO ORMOG BEHIND THE AMERICAN LANDING FORCE WAS DESTROYED.

GENERAL MACARTHUR SAID THAT BY THE ORMOG MANEUVER "WE HAVE SEIZED PART OF THE YAMASHIMA LINE FROM THE REAR AND HAVE SPLIT THE ENEMY'S FORCES IN TWO."

AMONG THE THIRTEEN JAPANESE SHIPS SUNK WERE ND. FOUR LARGE LOADED TRANSPORTS. THERE WERE TWO SMALL TRANSPORTS AND SEVEN DESTROYERS IN THE CONVOY. AN ADDITIONAL JAPANESE CONVOY OF SIX SMALL SHIPS APPROACHING LEYTE AT NIGHTFALL ALSO WAS WIPED OUT.

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1 December 44.

Underway at sea to invade ~~Moroc~~ Ormor Beach. Every warship sent to this Area for past week has been hit. Arrived in Moroc Harbor 0630 - Minesweeps drew fire from beach - DD's opened fire and shelled beach for 5 hours - LCI Rocket ship bombarded at 0645. First wave landed 0650 & no opposition - All landings prior to 1000. Walke shelled several barges -

Air support by P-38's - no opposition under 0900 when first wave of Jap planes (12) came over + shot down by fighters - on way down - 3 made suicide dives on USS Mahan (DD364) - ship was abandoned. 3 more made dives on APD - 2 missed - 1 hit - she was abandoned + sunk. Walke ordered to pick up Mahan's survivors - received - 238 men aboard - 31 Medical cases - able to take care of wounded - in little trouble. Worse case was shrapnel wound head. Underway to join convoy at 1200. Suicide

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS ON LEYTE—
The 77th Division of the 24th Corps has
landed in Ormoc harbor in the enemy's
rear. In an amphibious operation, with
air and naval support, the troops went
ashore three miles south of Ormoc and
are rapidly advancing
northward.

WE LAND
BEHIND JAPS,
DESTROY CONVOY

Immediately after
our own landing an
enemy convoy of 13
vessels, consisting of
four large transports
of from 7,000 to
8,500 tons each, two
freighter transports of 2,500 tons each
and seven destroyers and destroyer es-
corts, were discovered approaching from

the north with strong air cover. Our air
forces immediately attacked, and our own
convoy in turn was set upon by the ene-
my's aircraft. A desperate melee resulted,
in which all 13 vessels in the enemy's con-
voy were sunk without unloading. The
transports were heavily packed with troops
and 4,000 were estimated as lost.

We had one destroyer and one small
transport hard hit by aerial torpedoes and,
after transferring the crews, abandoned
the ships and sank them.

Our fighters shot down 52 enemy planes
and naval anti-aircraft fire destroyed 10.
We lost five planes but rescued the pilots.
At the close of the day our air force
spotted and sank six small craft loaded
with troops along the northwest coast of
Leyte, Luzon. Patrol planes set afire a

dives
not so
by so
tower
for u
fare
protect
Japs
planes
constru
was und
Another

hit but
367 hit
K but was
d in dive
t by AA
coverage
to keep the
lives. No US
re under
hours and
1 planes for

Note was got dark - clouds very
low with a very heavy rain all night
for which we were thankful.

It is unbelievable to think of suicide
planes until sight is seen - you really
realize just just how savage the
enemy is.

8 December 44

Arrived Leyte Gulf - 0900 - transferred
14 hospital patients to USS Hoop.
Several air raids during day.
Refueled in afternoon.

9 December 44

Leyte Gulf - re-ammunitioned then
Anchored - Received 3 letters from
Sug -

10 December 44

Up A 0300 - Japs - hit ammunition
dump on beach.

Underway at 0630 with O'Brien, Haffey,
Phoenix + Boise - for patrol duty.
Formation was attacked at 1700 by
one bomber who sneaked in - he
was shot down by Boise - during a
suicide dive.

Leyte harbor under heavy attack
for several hours - many APAs & APDs
hit plus some cargo ships.

USS Hughes hit by suicide plane -
we went to help Aid - was
towed in by Haffey.

Wrote Sug

11 December 44

steaming in Leyte Gulf - Phoenix, Boise, &
O'Brien + Haffey rushed in with
casualties from Hughes.
Refueled & re-ammunition this morning

30 NOVEMBER
ISLANDS, destroyed two coastal ves-
sels, seven barges and damaged two
others.
Moscow, communique—The fleet air arm
of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet sank two
German supply ships totaling 9,000 tons
in the port of Ljuba. In the Irbent
Straits our airmen sank two enemy tor-
pedo cutters.

Dives made on another APD - hit but
not sunk, USS Hanson - DD 367 hit
by suicide dive - did not sink but was
towed in. One plane started in dive
for Walke but was forced out by AA
fire. Throughout P-38 gave fair coverage
protection - but they couldn't keep the
Japs from going into suicide dives. No US
planes shot down - We were under
constant air attacks for 5 1/2 hours and
was under - raids by several planes for
another 4 hours.

Nite was pitch dark - clouds very
low with a very heavy rain all nite
for which we were thankful.

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Making all preparations for next operation which is to start tomorrow. All LSTs & LCIs were loading. There was a notice of increased number of aircraft in this area - especially - fighters & C-47.

Wrote Sug route -

12 December 44 - received letter today
dated 27 Nov.
Wrote Sug this morning -

Departed from San Pedro Harbor, Leyte Gulf - for Invasion of Mindoro Island. D-Day 15 December - many ships - unable to make account today.

Desdiv-119120 - screening light cruiser unit - composed of Boise, Phoenix & Portland. This force is to engage any enemy force which might attack the landing craft. First this force made a feint eastward thru Leyte Gulf as if to go to Ulithi - After dark - we reversed and started southward. This movement was to throw off Jap-observers on the Isles in neighborhood. As you can see this is a very light

protecting force. Entire invasion has been considered very daring - leaders were not optimistic of the outcome. No doubt many ships will be lost - due to suicide dives, torpedoes & PT boats.

Third fleet is to furnish Air protection in the Mindoro area - Army is to furnish Air coverage up thru Sulu Sea. Will be underway 3 nites & 2 days - hope all comes out well - & no casualties on ship - no doubt. We will spend a very thrilling 7 days - to come -

USS Reid (DD) - bombed & Suicide Dived - early this morning - unable to save her - Another DD put out of commission. Japs have really been working on the destroyers in this area.

Captain Davis made a very nice talk to crew today - explaining entire operation.

13 December 44.

IN Mindanao Sea - at sunrise -
Had sunrise G.A. - no planes - Everything
very peaceful all morning - plenty of
fight protection - had one bkr. in
A.M. 0100. Investigated two strange
craft - were lost P.S. Mis.

Convoy consists of about 150 ships -
Approximately 4 Ch.; 25 DD's -
40 LST + 40 LSM + LCI. In front
of us is 3 BB's 4 Ch's (Cleveland)
+ 6 CVE's - plus DD's -

Planes started coming over about
1300 - first one sneaked in over
land and suicide dived USS Nashville -
7th fleet flagship - hit bridge - fire
under control immediately - she
returned with 1 DD to Key Se
Gulf.

Numerous plane attacks all
afternoon - probably just the
beginning - what will tonight +
tomorrow hold.

THE NAVY ANNOUNCED THAT AMERICAN CARRIER BASED
PLANES DESTROYED ONE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE ENEMY
PLANES ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY IN THE AIR AND
ON THE GROUND ON LUZON. THE NEW TOTAL IS IN ADDITION
TO NINETYONE OTHER JAP PLANES DESTROYED IN AN ATTACK
ON WEDNESDAY WHICH SHAD BEEN ANNOUNCED EARLIER. BOTH
FIGHTERS AND BOMBERS JOINED IN THE ATTACK.
THE NAVY REPORTED NINETY OTHER ENEMY PLANES WERE
BOMBED AND STRAFED ON THE GROUND AT LUZON AIR FIELDS.
A DISPATCH FROM A CORRESPONDENT WITH THE CARRIER
FORCE SAID FIGHTER PATROLS FLEW OVER THE AIRFIELDS
THROUGH THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER THIRTEEN AND PREVENTED
THE ENEMY FROM BRINGING IN MORE AIRCRAFT. THIS WAS
THE FIRST MAJOR NIGHT OFFENSIVE OPERATION CARRIED OUT
BY CARRIER PILOTS.

MEANWHILE LIBERATORS HAMMERED AIR BASES ON TWO
ISLAND IN THE BONINS SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE MILES
NORTH OF SAIPAN. THEY MADE TWO STRIKES THE ELEVENTH
AND TWELFTH OF THIS MONTH.

aid of 3rd Fleet's air support.

Tonite leading convoy with
Boise, Phoenix, Portland, Des Div 119 + 120.
30 miles off coast of Mindoro
at 2000.

Tomorrow is the day

13 December 44.

IN MINDANAO SEA - AT sunrise -
HAD sunrise G.O. - NO planes - Everything
very peaceful all morning - plenty of
fight protection - had one G. in
P.M. 0100. Investigated two strange
craft - were lost 3 Mis.

Convoy consists of about 150 ships -
Approximately 4 Ch.; 25 DD's -
40 LST + 40 LSM + LCI. In front
of us is 3 BB's 4 Ch's (Cleveland)
+ 6 CVE's - plus DD's -

Planes started coming over about
1300 - first one sneaked in over
land and suicide dived USS Nashville -
7th fleet flagship - hit bridge - fire
under control immediately - ship
returned with 1 DD to Leyte
Gulf.

Numerous plane attacks all
afternoon - probably just the
beginning - what will tonight +
tomorrow hold.

14 December 44

IN Sulu Sea - with convoy -
G.O. - several times but no planes got
into convoy - good air coverage
I would say a very unevenful
day, everyone thinking things are
just a little too quiet for our
particular location - off west coast
of PANAY. We are first US force
to be in these waters since
Spring of '42.

Zero hour 0720 - fire support
group will start 1/2 hour prior -
WAKE will do patrolling.

Tonite got report that several
Jap task forces are coming to
intercept us - one consisting of
several carriers - don't think we
could take on very much without
aid of 3rd Fleet's air support.

Tonite leading convoy with
Boise, Phoenix, Portland, Des Div 119 + 120.
30 miles off coast of Mindoro
at 2000.

Tomorrow is the day

MINDORO - NANAYAN

GENERAL MACARTHUR REPORTED FROM THE PHILIPPINES TODAY A FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES SIXTH ARMY HAS LANDED VIRTUALLY UNOPPOSED ON THE SOUTHWEST COAST OF MINDORO ISLAND.

MINDORO IS ONE OF THE MAIN ISLANDS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND LIES DIRECTLY SOUTH OF THE ARCHIPELAGO MAIN ISLAND OF LUZON.

DESPITE SPORADIC ATTACKS ON THE CONVOY AS IT STEAMED TOWARD ITS DESTINATION THE JAPANESE WERE GAUGHT UNAWARE BY THE LANDING. THE LANDINGS REPRESENT AN ADVANCE IN FORCE ACROSS THE FULL BREADTH OF THE PHILIPPINES.

DECLARED GENERAL MACARTHUR "THIS OPERATION HAS DRIVEN A CORRIDOR FROM EAST TO WEST THROUGH THE PHILIPPINES WHICH IS NOW DEFINITELY CUT IN TWO AND WILL ENABLE US TO DOMINATE SEA AND AIR ROUTES WHICH REACH TO THE CHINA COAST"

MACARTHUR ALSO ANNOUNCED AGGRESSIVE GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST THE JAPANESE IN EIGHT MAJOR PHILIPPINE ISLAND GROUPS.

by
C
D
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Ja

had suicide attacks both sunk.
1 APD: hit by plane & damaged.
Moale hit by explosion from hST.
1 killed 15 wounded.
Walker assigned to investigate
Jap DD several miles up the
beach. DD was found damaged
& beached - was finished off

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS ON LEYTE—
Our ground troops by an overwater move-
ment from Leyte, 600 statute miles, landed on the Mindoro. Our naval units destroyed a amphibious op. Pandarochan Bay.

U.S. FORCES
LAN ON
MINDORO

by
C
D
S
W

of all services we have seized dominant beach along the southern coast of this westernmost Visayan island.

The landing, which was effected with little loss, was preceded by local naval and air bombardment and an air neutralization of all enemy Philippine fields which destroyed 250 enemy planes. The landing was a complete surprise and met only minor opposition. The seizure of the island in the rear of Cebu, Negros, Panay and other intervening islands of the Visayan group threatens the supply and reinforcement of enemy troops there and renders them vulnerable.

The operation has driven a corridor from east to west through the Philippine archipelago, which is now definitely cut in two, and will enable us to dominate the sea and air routes which reach the China coast.

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS ON LEYTE—
Our naval units destroyed a amphibious op. Pandarochan Bay.

Tap plane -
beach to
my Jap
Portland-6
person +
waters -

keyte tomorrow.
G.O. from 0300 to 2100.

16 December 44.

Two Alerts 0005 & 0200 - ug at 0530 for
Sunrise G.O. left Mindoro Isle at 0800 -
with Cruisers & DD's to escort landing
craft back to keyte. Day very cloudy.
No planes got into formation many
shot down by CAP. from keyte.
Wrote Sug.

17 December 44

hour part of Sulu Sea. cruisers
left + went on to San Pedro Harbor
leaving 10 DD's to escort. Day quiet.
had evening alert 1 plane came on

15 December 44

INVASION DAY of Mindoro Isle

Morning alert at 0330 - everything very quiet - just off landing beach 3000 yards - ock. flash. Bartou + Ingraham investigated strange craft - which was Jap cargo or tanker - was sunk by gun fire from above craft. Several attacks on our mine sweeps - by planes.

Bombarding of beach by DD's Boise + LCI rocket ships - all landings unopposed. No injuries to Army. Filipino citizens came to beach in groups, waving - held up the bombarding.

Plenty of fighter coverage - several Jap planes swatted thru. 2 LST's had suicide attacks both sunk. 1 APD - hit by plane + damaged. Moale hit by explosion from LST - 1 killed 15 wounded.

Waikē assigned to investigate Jap DD. several miles up the beach. DD was found damaged + beached - was finished off

by gun fire from Waikē.

Tonite shot down Jap plane - cruising around off beach to protect it against any Jap landing. Boise, Phoenix, Portland - 6 DD's (2200) - sure is lonesome + scary up in these waters - a such a small fleet.

Hogo to start back to Leyte tomorrow.

G.O. from 0300 to 2100.

16 December 44.

Two alerts 0005 + 0200 - up at 0530 for Sunrise G.O. left Mindoro Isle at 0800 - with Cruisers + DD's to escort landing craft back to Leyte. Day very cloudy. No planes got in to formation many shot down by CAP. from Leyte.

Wrote Surg.

17 December 44

lower part of Sulu Sea - cruisers left + went on to San Pedro Harbor leaving 10 DD's to escort. Day quiet. had evening alert 1 plane came on

the next morning. The next morning - out a successful bombardment of enemy positions on Rab Island, in the northern Adriatic to the east of Cherso. Moscow, communique - Ships of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet sank in the Baltic Sea a German supply ship of 4,000 tons.

the next morning. The next morning - out a successful bombardment of enemy positions on Rab Island, in the northern Adriatic to the east of Cherso. Moscow, communique - Ships of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet sank in the Baltic Sea a German supply ship of 4,000 tons.

SHIPS SUNK
HONG KONG

US - WAS DRIVEN AWAY BY 40 MM - WAS
A CLOSE CALL - COULD HAVE EASILY GOTTEN US.
Wrote Sugar.

18 December 44
Arrived San Pedro Harbor at 0800 -
Refueled, Reammunitioned in A.M. then
Anchored.

Received MAIL for first time in over
A week - got 4 letters from Sug.

Wrote Sug. to write. Dropped today
Casper sank in 30-50 seconds - 50% survivors.

19 December 44

At Anchor San Pedro Bay. Went
ashore with Whitver to Taclouban
which is a small town 10-20,000. Sanitation
terrible - streets were mud holes -
Natives were barefooted - didn't
wear mud. Numerous troops - us + Native
bought pair of coveralls + Amphib caps.
Received No mail from Sug - wrote
her to write.

20 December 44

At Anchor San Pedro Bay - nothing
of interest - getting a good rest - for
A change. Had one alert 1930 - plane
shot down.

Wrote Sugar.

21 December 44

At Anchor San Pedro Bay - nothing
of interest. Received Medical
Supplies from HST 464.

Received no mail - wrote Sug,
Annie + Vic.

22 December 44

At Anchor San Pedro Bay - nothing
of interest. GQ at 1400 + 2000 -
No mail heard all forward back
to San Francisco - what a hell of
a MIX UP.

Wrote Sugar

23 December 44

Anchor San Pedro Bay - nothing of interest - several alerts after sun down.

Received Al Nau telling of my promotion. Wrote Sug.

24 December 44

Anchor San Pedro Bay - Comdr. Zahn received Silver Star & Lt. Fuller received letter of commendation.

Lieutenant As of today. Received letter from Sug dated 29 November. Wrote Her.

25 December 44

Anchor San Pedro Bay - went on liberty party to Keyto Beach with Scott - was there about 1 1/2 hours - had several bottles of beer - sure was good. No letter from Sug - I love her so very much

to 61-1211

26 December 44

Anchor San Pedro Bay - gave fuel to USS Louisville, Refueled AND re-ammunitioned. Walker received fall injury back.

Message came that Jap Task Unit was approaching Mindoro - Cruiser Dr here departed immediately @ 800's. We were unable to go because of directory out of order.

29 December

At Anchor San Pedro Bay - sent Lt. S.F. Walker to HST 464 K.F.T. Diagnosis Intraspinal Injury - hate to see him leave.

Censorship regulations eased up - Wrote Sug.

28 December 44

San Pedro Bay - reprovisioned ship - received 3 letters from Sug - wrote her tonight.

29 December.

SAN Pedro Bay - uneventful day - no alerts - DD's & CL's got in from Mindoro run - had no opposition
No mail - wrote Sug

30 December 44

SAN Pedro Bay - uneventful day -
Saw Walker prior to departure

31 December 44

SAN Pedro Bay - went on liberty party to SAMAR - very poor liberty
No swimming - No alcoholic drinks
Received 9 letters from Sug - wrote her to write.
Happy New Year's Eve.

1945

1 JANUARY -

Anchor SAN Pedro Bay - uneventful -
wrote Sug a long letter enclosing
\$100.00 check -

2 JANUARY 45.

SAN Pedro Bay - went to Tacloban in A.M. for some shoes - didn't have size. Captain had conference at 1500 - gave details of LUZON INVASION - Walker to operate with mine sweeps in one of toughest sections - Capt. gave details to crew.
Underway at 2200 for rendezvous.

3 JANUARY 45

Underway for INVASION of LUZON -
Rendezvous with other force at daybreak - 12 CVE's 5 BB's - Numerous CL's and DD's - must have 50-60 combat ships. No JAP planes got in during day. AT sunset 1 suicide plane missed HMAS Australia
This is a large group - USS Tennessee, California, Pennsylvania, Colorado, & Maryland.

4 JANUARY 45

Sulu Sea - spend most of day delivering mail - rescued survivor from a Wildcat uninjured - badly shaken up. USS Ormoc Bay CVR hit by suicide plane - later destroyed by own force. Had several air attacks at sunset.

Also up at 12-2-4 in morning for alerts.

5 JANUARY 45

G. Q. at 0230 - then routine sunrise G. Q. at 0630. Uneventful morning - passed mail and pilot. Around 1500 2 Jap DDIs were discovered 70 miles away - 40 planes sent to destroy them. 1700 had G. Q. - 2 CVTs hit by suicide planes - neither serious - and both able to keep underway (USS Manila Bay). 1 DE (Stratford) hit by plane in midship - 2 engine rooms + 1 room flooded but after awhile she was able to get underway. USS Louisville hit by suicide plane

in bridge #2 turret - 15 wounded - 1 fatal 1 critical. #2 turret got out of commission. We were under AIR ATTACK until 2000.

Tomorrow is the day - that has been looked forward to for several years - return of U.S. ships to Luzon - Wake their PB minesweepers - May God Be With US And Protect US.

6 JANUARY 45 LUZON S-3 day.

Steaming North thru South China Sea only short distance from Lingayen Gulf. Force split up into two sections, one of CVTs and escorts and the other, the bombarding force - of 3 BB's, 7 CV's and numerous DD's. Arrived at entrance of Lingayen Gulf at 10:45 everything very quiet but mine-sweepers had already gone into the bay. USS Sumner replaced Barton at last minute and we received word from Dody 120 to follow him into the bay to the mine-sweeping area. We left the

Admiral Killed

big ships and got off alone - at that moment we noticed our mine sweeps were getting fire from shore batteries and we immediately increased our speed to help them out. On our way over our look-outs suddenly spotted 5 Jap Zeros about 3 miles away and we immediately took them under fire. 4 of the planes came in from starboard and one curved in front of the ship and came from the port side. 1st plane exploded in mid air - hit by 5th shell - 2nd plane - was hit and made quick run on ship missed the bridge and hit in water on port side about 10 feet from where I was standing - luckily there was no explosion. 3rd plane came in from port simultaneously with 4th plane from starboard - 4th plane hit by A.A. and exploded near the ship. 3rd plane hit port side of the bridge causing large gasoline fire and knocked out all radio, radar & gun directories, 40 M.M. on starboard side kept operating and.

500th bomb went thru CIC without exploding
Shore battery shell missed us by several feet.

Plane No 5 was hit and made a curve for our fantail and missed. The fire was quickly extinguished by excellent work of our repair party and all guns remained manned and ready for future planes. The USS Sumner was also attacked and hit by the planes. Personnel casualties 9 killed immediately - (1 Officer, Pinner) 3 died later (Captain Davis, Bulman & Gray) 1 Missing in action and 32 wounded casualties. Considerable damage was done by strafing of the approaching planes. Started to transfer all casualties to USS Minneapolis when someone looked up and saw a Jap plane circling - everyone started firing and plane dived on cruiser and missed. Had many attacks during day. Finally succeeded in transferring 8 serious patients to Minneapolis after dark (Moseley and Cold) in a very rough sea. Rejoined force for morning attack. There was absolutely no air

coverage during the day. Altogether
6 DD's, 2 CU's, and 1 BB was hit
by suicide planes.

7 January 45. S-2

Steamed back into Gulf with
Bombardier force at 0700. BB's
bombed both sides of beach and
all shore batteries were silenced
in short order. Big ships went in
directly behind mine-sweeps to
protect them for it was learned the
first day it was suicide to get
a ship isolated for the planes
would certainly pick on them.
Had good air coverage all day.
Underwater Demolition Teams went
in.

Crew became very nervous because
of constant firing. Good thing it
was a quiet day. I was very
tense all day.

3 of boys on Minneapolis died

8 January 45 S-1

Steamed back into bay and
plane made dive on NMAAS Amtrak.
Hit port side in water causing
flooding of several compartments.
Had good CAP from 3rd flut-
CU + BB bombarded beach heavily
all day. On way out in late
afternoon tower of San Fabian
was destroyed by shell fire.

Surrept had several suicide
attacks but none hit. - They are
very exciting to wait especially
when they miss - but to us it
made us more tense.

9 January 45 S-DA

Up at 5:30. Jailed. plane shot
down - shell fire. Routine alert
at 6:30 ship bomber dived on
us and had a close bomb miss
off starboard quarter - 4 tubes and 4
standing very close by - no
shrapnel hit us. at 7:30 another
plane started in dive for us but

was forced away by heavy AA fire.
Beach bombarded by BB's + SU's.
IDD + NMAS unharmed but by
flames. Plenty of APA's (4056)
Anchored in bay - Jeep from
0930 - beach bombarded by
161 rocket ships - no opposition to
landings.

Transported 9 casualties to USS
Ripley (APK-3).

Underwent many raid during
the day but no ships were hit.

P-38 appeared late in the afternoon
gave everyone new hope. P-61
appeared at sunset.

At sunset, transport area put
under smoke screen against
suicide attacks. Several planes
came over, lot of AA fire from
beach and ship - several
planes shot down and several
sunk their ships.

Our Army kept stickalls over
beach until night - several times
Jap bombers came over and dropped
bombs on the beach.

10 January 45 5+1 day

No sleep during the night. At
Anchor in Gulf - Up at 4:30
when Motor Torpedo boats were
reported in area - had hit 4
ships and 2 more during alert. One
loaded APA hit. Japs also used
torpedo barges, boat with hand
grenades and later in morning
Japs were found swimming in
water with explosives on their
back, evidently they swam under
the ship, and as the explosive
then went away. Everyone was
on alert against wooden boxes, etc.

6 o'clock enemy planes came over
again - all suicide. 2 were
shot down, the rest hit in divers.
Everyone aboard ship in panic
because of constant landing.

Refueled in afternoon - water very
rough - started back to Leyte
at 1800 - underwent air attack
at 1915. plane crashed to our
port side - one APA hit & sunk.
We proceeded with 6 APA's

Summer, O'Brien, IOK + IAPD.

11 + 12 January 45 -

Underway in South China Sea.
Destination Suye Gulf with 15 APA's.
Had good CAP all day - no
fogies during day. Passed into
Mindanao sea at sunset - 1 plane
reported but visibility was poor
for him to sight us. Tomorrow
we arrive in Suye Gulf.

13 January 45.

Went thru Surigao Straits at
sunset had 3 P-6's for CAP
until 0730. Arrived in San Pedro
Bay at 1500 - The bay was almost
clear of all ships which was a
great surprise evidently all shipping
pulled out for Luzon. Regardless
of how little they want to be
here we can at least get some
rest and collect our last news
again.

One week ago today we were
lost.

14 January 45 -

Arrived San Pedro Bay -
Refueled early in a.m. then re-
anchored - received 10 officers
& 16 men as passengers all
survivors of USS Oriskany Bay.
No mail. Departed Bay at
1530 for Maris - with
Columbia, Louisville, O'Brien & Summer.
Very calm - had evening
alert - no fogies.

15 January 45

Underway for Maris Isles -
speed 20 knots - ocean very
calm & peaceful. Sunrise 6:45
at 0530 + no planes reported.
Sun very hot - managed to
get 1 hour of bathing for
my body.

Planned some bridge tonight.
Wrote Surge

16 JANUARY 45.

Proceeding to MANUS Isle. with
Louisville, Columbia, O'Brien & Sumner.
No routine quarters today.

Routine day.

17 JANUARY 45.

Proceeding to Manus Isle with
Above ship - speed 18 knots zigzagging.
Received message that we with
Louisville, O'Brien, Sumner would
proceed from Manus with two
carriers to Pearl Harbor. Everyone
excited hoping that we may be
sent back to the States - I hope,
I hope.

Wrote Sug & Mother tonight.

18 JANUARY

Arrived in Manus 11:30 - anchored
harbor large with few ships. Went
ashore to Officers Club for 1/2 hour.
Met Zahut Rocky. Returned to
ship - they stayed until 2400.

Wrote Sug

Chalkboard of 1

19 JANUARY

IN MANUS harbor - went ashore
IN A.M. & Fuller - had fire beers -
returned to ship. Went ashore in
P.M. Bill & John - had few beers.

British Pacific Fleet arrived in
this AREA today IBB (Howe) ICU & 3 DIX.
Had party for them at Officers Club.
Received message that we
would depart on ~~the~~ Sunday
for Pearl Harbor with Louisville.

Wrote Sug

20 JANUARY

MANUS harbor - went ashore
IN A.M. to buy shoes unable to
buy them. Went ashore IN P.M.
& Fuller - had a good time.
Passengers came aboard for
trip to Pearl Harbor.

21 JANUARY 45

Walke's first birthday - long
May she live and long may she
reign. She has had an exciting
first year.

left Manus Harbor - underway

at 0700 - USS Louisville destination
Pearl Harbor. 3400 miles - 9 days of
steaming at 17 knots.

Water choppy today - good sun
bath -

Wrote Sug route -

JANUARY 22, 23, 24 - 1945

At sea proceeding - USS Louisville
to Pearl Harbor. Water very
rough - plenty of pitching. Passengers
sick.

25 JANUARY 45.

At sea proceeding with USS Louisville,
and USS Columbia who joined us
today.

Rejoined in A.M. water very
rough, large swells - rained all
day.

29 JANUARY 45

Arrived in Pearl Harbor -
at 11:30 Anchored at Cru Des
Base. Immediately found out
we were going to Mare
Island for repairs. Went to
officer's club - got high - was
pulled out of boat by Trost.
Met John Franz had a long
talk with him. Called Dexter Meyers
and Stith.

Wrote Sug 4 letters -

31 JANUARY 45

Departed Pearl Harbor 0930
with USS Louisville for Mare
Island. Received Durbar, 3
new officers AND 8 passengers.

4 FEBRUARY 45

Steaming with USS Louisville
S.O.A. 14 knots. about 500 miles
from San Francisco. Today it
was announced that Yanks
had entered Manila without
opposition. Russians only

30 miles from Berlin. They had asked the Germans to surrender.

Johns. found my two bottles of beer today in ice box.

6 February 45.

Arrive in San Francisco, Cal at 0800 - proceed to USNY, Mare Island. Called Vicale's and found Margaret was on her way.

8. February 45.

Sugie Arrives.

4 April 45.

Depart from Mare Island at 1200. Wright leaves ship. Go under Golden Gate Bridge at 1430. It was a beaut. for sight and at same time very disheartening. Some of us will be seeing it for the last time - others will see it again. Watched the shore line go out of sight.

Sea 5 splashed me on the head.

Sugie, bless her heart is in San Diego waiting while we are proceeding to Pearl Harbor. I love her so very much. Started her a letter tonight.

5 April 45.

Steaming at 14 knots to Pearl. Had burst firing 5" and machine guns.

Rendezvous with USS ALABAMA & USS Shubrick at 1700.

Wrote Sugie a letter.

6 April 45.

Underway for Pearl Harbor & USS ALABAMA & Shubrick. Tracking drills in A.M.

Wrote Sugie a letter.

10 April 45

Up at 0500 for mock sunrise air attacks rejected from ALABAMA. Caved our starboard forecabin in ramming Alabamans. HA firing all day. Received

letter from Sugie. Wrote Sugie.

Moored tonight at Ammunition Depot, Hickham Field - Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, T. H. We passed O'Brien on her way to States.

11-22 April 45.

Went thru shakedown at Cordes Pac. Really worked us hard - and rushed us out due to increase number of destroyers being hit by suicide planes in OKINAWA AREA.

7 sunk and about 25 hit during past week USS Haffey hit by 4 planes.

23 April 45

Departed from Pearl Harbor at noon in company with USS Grant enroute to Eniwetok. I don't think I have ever regretted anything in all my life, as I did when we pulled out today - I guess it must be the thought of what we will be facing in a few weeks. Today for the first time in months I have come face to face with fear

for I think I would go nuts if I thought about what was going to happen and what would become of Margaret. She is so depended on me and we both have so much to live for - our happiness, our children. Deep down inside of me I would not be scared if I was single but now I have to think of Sugie and Mother's support. I do hope the Good Lord Above watches over me and spare me once again so I can return home to my loved one.

April 22-29

Steaming to Eniwetok with USS Grant. Learned we were back in Amphibs with Fleet U and our next assignment was escort the PA's, USS Barton hit by plane I wonder how S. Whitahouse made out.

I am very pessimistic over the coming few weeks - somehow I figure my number is about ready to be drawn. I have never in my life felt as I do now. Maybe

I am too pessimistic but I have that certain feeling which isn't good.

30 April 45

Arrived at Eniwetok Atoll at noon - went to Officer's Club had a few beers + went swimming. Water + beach was wonderful. No mail from Sugar.

1 May 45.

In company with USS Grand (DD649) departed Eniwetok at 0715 destination Ulithi.

Had sub contact \bar{c} Grant - who used up all of her depth charges - we expended MANY \bar{c} no results.

3 May 45

Proceeding as above. Today we received NAVAL Casualty list from OKINAWA - so far 131 ships hit - AND over 3,000 CASUALTIES -

4 May 45.

Up at 0200 sound contact - dropped several patterns of charges - no result - Arrived in Ulithi around noon - anchorage filled with ships - for miles on miles both PT + combatant ships.

Saw Caldwell's APA - Received check from BUSA - for Sug's travel to W.C.

Received 2 wonderful letters from her.

* 5 May 45.

Ulithi - received word of Surrender of Germany Unconditional - Went ashore -

6 May 45.

Departed from Ulithi Harbor at 1800 \bar{c} USS Anthony, APD + 10 Cargo ships destination OKINAWA. CAN'T SAY I AM too happy - for the future looks very gloom. Wrote Sug a letter to be read in case of accident to her daddy.

* 10 MAY 45.

O Arrived in OKINAWA \bar{c} USS Anthony.
K 2 APD's AND 10 CARGO SHIPS. While
I going around southern tip - could observe
N actual fighting on beach \bar{c} Artillery -
A and ships.

W Harbor at OKINAWA - filled \bar{c} ships -
A few destroyers.

A Very pretty island - looked civilized.
R could observe much supplies on beach -
R good roads - could see troops + trucks
I moving up. Several airstrips many
V types of planes. landed.

A At night smoke screen laid over transports
A and we laid out side. Had 14 raids in
L vicinity but we didn't go to G.A.

11. MAY 45.

G.A. at 0500 - No planes got in - had
17 raids up to 0900. CAP and picket
ships were fighting all raids. 74 planes
shot down by CAP. We were assigned
to go and furnish AA support to
USS Radley (2200⁰⁰⁷⁷⁴ton), who had been a
picket ship and had been hit by a
suicide plane and bomb. She was

under attack by several raids and
shot down 19 planes - before being hit.
One plane dived and missed her. She almost
went down but excellent salvage and
jettison she remained afloat until sea going
tugs arrived. Had 3 engineering
spaces flooded.

USS EVANS (DD552), hit by 2 planes
also towed in by sea going tugs - we
were under towing job for 5 hours
with no subsequent AIR ATTACKS. Brought
both ships to Ei Shima - where EVANS
was beached. Jim Smith - survived
crash on EVANS.

No sunset attacks -

This is a rough affair - out here -
it looks like certain death on these picket
jobs and our future operations. I hope and
pray that the mighty Walke will survive
all future attacks -

12. MAY 45.

Cruising between Ei Shima + OKINAWA
Refueled at 0700 then anchored in
OKINAWA on 15 minutes notice. Quiet
day until sunset when 2 Jap

planes sneaked by outer screen and got into anchorage. 1 plane missed in dive the other hit U.S.S. New Mexico - and caused big fire. It is rumored we will take out place on picket station tomorrow - hope we all survive the results.

13 May 45. Mother's Day.

Up at 0030 for Torpedo Boat Attack. Several sunk in immediate area. We got one in light and cross-fire. Up at 0300 - AA - RAID. Many planes we laid smoke screen. Up at 0530 morning alert - no planes. Underway at 0700 for Radar picket No 5 - Southern OKINAWA - suppose to be the best one - only few planes. USS Pritchett was accompanying ship. No action until sunset. Many planes came in but CAP got them. 1 twin engine bomber (Diva) got within 4 miles of us when Corsairs hopped on him and he went down in a mass of flames. USS Bache (DD 540) hit by plane on picket.

Today it was learned that as a result of plane dive on USS New Mexico

Admiral Spruance + Staff
was on USS New Mexico
when she was hit - all
wounded.

50 men killed or missing and 75 was seriously wounded.

Wrote Sug a note. Had a big Air raid in OKINAWA Anchorage tonight - 14 May 45.

Up at 0445 for morning alert - no planes - USS Pritchett relieved by USS Bradford.

Uneventful day - but had sunrise alert & many planes reported in area - clouds very low.

Had P-47 for CAP - in P.M.

15 May 45

Underway off Southern OKINAWA - Radar Picket Station No #5 - G. Q. several times during day but no planes came in. Sunset - had many planes in surrounding areas - total of 9 shot down - no ships hit.

We expect large raids tomorrow for Japs has had 3 days to get large number of planes together. Hope we get thru O.K.

Wrote Sug a letter.

17 May 45.

Cruising on Picket Station #7 -
at sunrise a Jap Observation
plane (Pete) was sighted on horizon -
tried to work way round into sun
and get on - finally shot down by
fighters who said he carried a 500#
bomb. A twin engine Jap bomber -
headed for our formation ~~was~~ was shot
down in dive by high Altitude fighters.
Walke relieved on picket by USS Watts -
proceed to OKINAWA Anchorage. At
6P until 2300 - USS Fox hit by plane on
Picket #9

18 May 45.

Proceeded at dawn from Okinawa &
USS Wichita, Portland, New Orleans and
Hubbard to Kerama Retto Anchorage
where we took on supplies & fuel.
Bill Caldwell came over for about 4 hours
we had a wonderful reunion - talked and
talked over old times - I love my Sug
so very much - forever and forever.

19 May 45.

Underway from Kerama Retto to
OKINAWA Anchorage. Had no G.R. this A.M.
certainly was good sleeping - Wrote
Sug this A.M. - received 2 letters from
her - certainly was good to hear from
her.

Sent to Baker 25 - picket station - warned
of Baka Bomb attack tonight - in plain
view of only fighting front in world.
Artillery shells blasting away.

20 May 45.

Cruising ^{along} Baker 25 - picket station
off southern tip of OKINAWA. No
Alerts during day - At sunset
several planes approached our
area - taken under fire by picket
ship about 10,000 yards away.
IDID (Thacher DD514) hit by
plane in bridge - IDE hit.
Walke has been very lucky -

21 MAY 45.

Baker 25 - refueled in A.M. proceeded to OKINAWA anchorage.

Received 8 letters from Sug 2 from Mother - 1 from Carryland Nancy J.

No Alerts during day. Still bombarding southern part of island - you would think no living being could exist under such bombardment.

22 MAY 45.

Anchored in OKINAWA anchorage - weather poor - ordered to report to RP # 11 (A) new station where planes have sneaking in - ordered back because of weakened AA protection around transports. After evening Alert several planes came in closer - we were ordered to Baker # 27 for ASW.

23 MAY 45.

Up at 0100 for plane alert. Ordered to report to RP # 11 (A) at sunrise - There are a total of 3 destroyers on this station.

Sunset G.O. - No planes - visible very poor - No CAP because of weather.

24 MAY 45.

Cruising on Picket Station 11 (A) - 2 other DD's - very quiet day. AT sunset at the end - someone noticed strange planes over island about 14000 yards away. CAP - (2) investigated - and divided into 8 jag planes shooting at least 4 down before other CAP got there - in all 5 Vals - 2 Zaks and 1 Oscar was exploded. These planes had our number no doubt and it can't be expressed in writing just how good it makes you feel to see our fighters shot the inferior Jag pilot down - they are no match for our pilots or planes. It gives you the most wonderful feeling to see the planes exploded in mid air and to know they were meaning to suicide give you. Thank the Good Lord Above for his help.

Up most of nite 4 G.Q.'s in all - enemy plane
steered in from KUMASHIMA. Only 2 hours of sleep.
Several ships hit during the nite.

25 MAY 45.

On Radar Picket 11(A) with 2 other DD's
rained hard all day - 2 other DD's
Joined us late in afternoon - Uneventful
nite No G.Q.

26 May 45.

During nite we received orders to
return to Kerama Retto to refuel -
had 8 hrs anchor availability - to repair
Engine room leak.

SAW Zahmie & Rock - Also went over
to see Scott - for awhile - he was
still the same old guy - Remained at
Anchor overnight.

27 May 45.

Sent to AA screen OKINAWA Anchorage -
received - 11 letters from Suz - 2 from
Mother + 1 from Vic. No AIR raids during
day - covered with smoke at nite.

28 May 45.

IN OKINAWA Anchorage - had 26
raids during nite and 34 more during morning.
Op a 0515 when plane sneaked in was shot
down boarding in mid air - About 2000

yards from us. During nite 3 ships hit -
1 APD lost 14 officers + 38 men. This
morning USS Drexel (DD741) on RP #5
attacked by 9 Bettys - 2 hitting her
resulting in her sinking - lost 14 officers
And about 175 men.

About 9600 clock - Betty hit but missed
a LCI - very low ceiling -

AA screening station all day -

29 May 45.

AA screening at 0200 received word
to proceed to RP #15 - Not too happy -
had routine G.Q. No bogies appeared.
USS Shubrick - on way to RP #16 received
bomb hit No #1 stack lost all power -
was towed in.

Rained hard all day - visibility poor
No CAP - No bogies. 2000 - G.Q. - plane
was friendly. Still very rough + raining.

30 May 45.

Morning G.Q. - raining very hard - no
visibility, no bogies. Visibility continued
to be poor all day.

31 May 45.

Patrolling R.P.#15 - very cloudy - had pay day in A.M. - several bogies reported at sunset none approached U.S.

1 June 45.

Relieved from RP #15 at 1000 - proceeded to Kerama Retto for resupplies & refueling. I bet we were the first ships to go thru RP #15 without seeing one plane. It has been the graveyard for DD's.

Mr. O'Connell came aboard ship.

2 June 45.

Proceeded from Kerama Retto to Anchorage and AA screen - No alerts during the day.

Received 2 letters from Sugar.

3 June 45.

AA screen in Anchorage. Had G at noon with 3 large raids approaching formation fast. All planes engaged by CAP & 33 planes shot down. We lost 2 planes by colliding and 1 LCI was hit by suicide plane.

The Jap planes today had American markings.

Received 6 letters from Sugar.

4 June 45.

Anchored in harbor - No G. Q's - it certainly has been very quiet. An occ. bogie is announced.

In afternoon kept receiving warnings of typhoon approaching this area from North - due to arrive here around 0400 tomorrow. All light units, ACUs, LST's, DE's and DD's left anchorage and went around to Southern tip of OKINAWA for shelter.

Capt. McGillis admitted to Sick list Temp 104° - DU (Food Poisoning).

5 June 45

Anchored in harbor - very quiet day - the typhoon missed us. Capt. much better but still in bed.

Received orders to VSS Anthony to proceed to RP #15 - isn't so good hope our luck holds out tomorrow will be 6 months since we were hit.

6 June 45.

On R.P. # 15 (A) with USS Bradford & USS Anthony. No bogies until about 1600. Although it was a beautiful day - visibility very good - had several G.Q. At 1600 low flying bogies reported coming from North headed for our formation. CAP engaged them shooting down 4 with 1 escaping - several minutes later a plane was sighted in clouds + us + above our Jantail-highup - he was taken under fire and when he saw CAP - he went into dive for Walkie - he was set on fire by a Wildcat - pilot (cop) bailed out but parachute didn't open. There were several other RP stations under attack - many planes shot down - but no ships hit. USS Watts had a close miss on RP # 16.

At 2200 went to G.Q. - bogie closing fast - dropped bomb in midst of 3 ships - hitting 300 yards from us.

USS Louisville & USS Mississippi hit today by planes in OKINAWA AREA.

7 June 45.

On R.P. 15 (A) as above - morning a lot with no bogies reported. Very clear day - many CAP's - visibility excellent. At 1900 2 bogies sighted flying very low over water at 6000 yards - heading for USS Anthony - they were too low for radar interception. First plane dropped torpedo which missed - and was later shot down by Walkie 40 mm. (Gimchick) - the other plane shot down by Anthony - both were Ual's. At Tony, evidently the escort plane - was shot down on horizon by CAP.

Incidentally today John S + I rolled dice to see how many planes we would see today and he threw 3. He then threw again to see how many of them I would see and he rolled 3. Then I rolled to see how many would be shot down and I rolled 3 - rolled again to see how many would hit us and rolled 3. Earl Biggers then grabbed dice and rolled to see if last was correct and he rolled 3. Incidentally 3 planes did appear.

Captain much better.

Ole Walkie's luck is holding out - hope she continues - indefinitely.

G.Q. at 2200 fired 68 rounds - G.Q.
at 2400 - did not fire.. Plane was very
high.

8 June 45

F
L
A
R
E
S

RP#15 (A) with above ships. G.Q. at
0200 plane approaching very fast - was
taken under fire by 3 ships - he responded
by surprising us with a flare over us -
lit up Wa like like a Xmas tree. Expected
a torpedo or dive bombing attack - nothing
happened. Plane heckled us all night did
not secure until 0600.

Nothing of interest during day. At
1800 3 DDIs USS Cogswell, Caperton + Porter.
Came out for support + to relieve us. No
doubt we will be relieved tomorrow. Remained
at G.Q. from 1810 to 2230 numerous
boogies closing and opening - one taken
under fire and he responded by
dropping 13 flares over 6 DDIs -
sure was lit out and plenty scary.
They make you feel very helpless. Damn
them.

All in all had 28 raids today -
RP#16 very busy - all day.

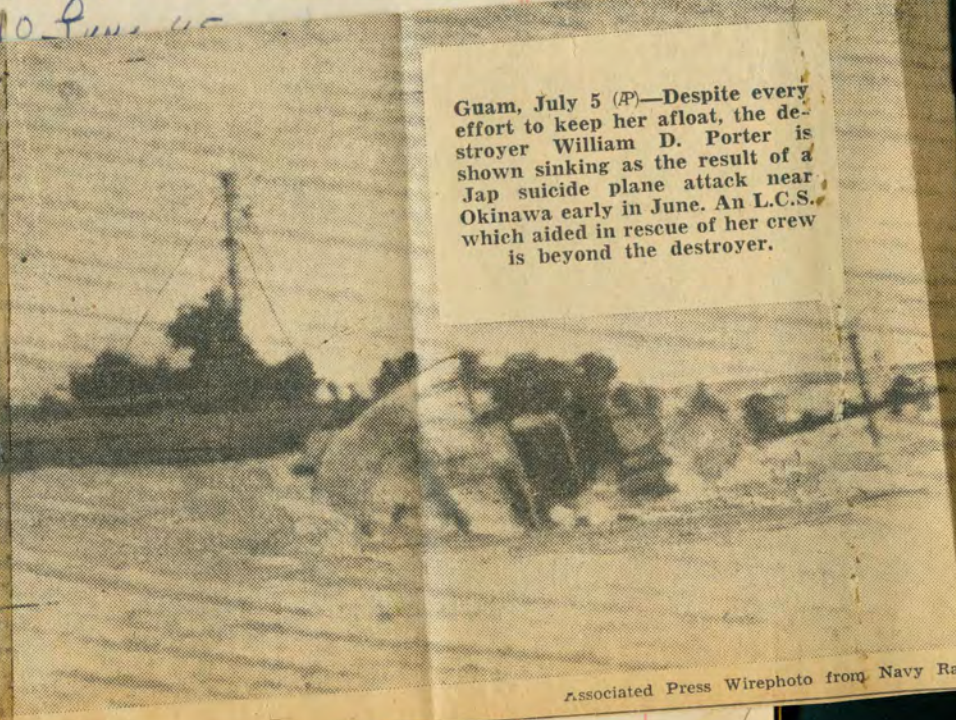
G.Q. - 2315 until 2400.

9 June 45.

Cruising on RP#15 (A) as above. G.Q. at
0200 and 0500. No planes came in - one plane
crashed into ship in OKINAWA Anchorage -
We proceed E USS Anthony, + Bradford to
Kerama Retto for ammunition, fuel and
repairs.

Had a good nite of sleep for a
change.

* 10 June 45



Guam, July 5 (P) - Despite every effort to keep her afloat, the destroyer William D. Porter is shown sinking as the result of a Jap suicide plane attack near Okinawa early in June. An L.C.S. which aided in rescue of her crew is beyond the destroyer.

G.Q at 2200 fired 68 rounds - G.Q
at 2400 - did not fire. Plane was very
high.

8 June 45

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0200 plane approaching very fast - was
taken under fire by 3 ships - he responded
by surprising us with a flare over us -
lit up Wa like like a Xmas tree. Expected
torpedo or dive bombing attack - nothing

stove; garage; nice deep
fruit trees; priced \$6,850.
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n and breakfast room bun-
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modern kitchen with built-in cabinets,
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shower, 1st floor; 1 nice bedroom
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stoker-fired furnace; side drive to ga-
rage; quick possession; price \$11,000.
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HIGHLANDS; leaving city, want quick
offer, immediate possession; Wellington,
2511 Manchester Rd., brick bungalow;
like new; 5-room, tile bath, 1-floor plan;
with full floored attic; full basement;
screened back porch; side drive, garage;
fenced yard; beautifully landscaped.
Call W. J. Merten.
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HIGHLANDS—OPEN TONIGHT 6 TO 8.
Vacant—Immediate Possession
DOUGLASS Blvd., 1970; brick bungalow;
living room, porch across front, 2 bed-
rooms; full basement; new furnace with
automatic draft control; full furnace with
close to shopping center and transpor-
tation; asking \$9,000, want offer.
C. ROBT. PETER, SR.-JR. JA 3157.
HIGHLANDS, 1618 Shady Lane; hol-
floor; 3 rooms and bath, 2d floor; full
basement, lavatory, 3-car garage; less
than \$9,000. HI 6845; by appointment only.
HUGHES Ct., corner of 1st St., near
University; 5-room modern bungalow,
newly decorated. Mr. Baker, FR 2462.
PROOD REALTY CO. FR 1135.
IROQUOIS, 212; 5-room bungalow, like
new, tile bath; full basement and attic;
laundry tubs.
PROOD REALTY CO. FR 1135.
INVERNESS, 886; 4 rooms, bath; hard-
wood floors; inlaid linoleum; built-in
cabinets; Estate Heatrola; new shades;
screens, storm windows, awnings;
\$4,750; owner; 30-day possession.
IVY Ct., 3200; 4-room and bath bunga-
low cottage; nice location; \$3,750; \$750
down, balance monthly. SH 2895-J. SH
5587-M.
KENTUCKY Ave., 1594; possession

all wide J. J.
TA 9633. GARRENE REALTY CO. TA
ST. MATTHEWS.
SPRING HILL Rd., 4019; see this 3-b
room, newly decorated home today;
will not find another like it for the pr
of \$9,500; immediate possession; open
to 6.
J. T. REID. TA 3012-71
SUTCLIFFE Ave., block south Broadw
modern brick, 1-floor plan; 5 p
rooms, bath; full basement; furr
garage; owner says sell; asking \$6
Evenings and holidays, Mr. Brock,
4625-J.
J. E. TAYLOR, Realtor. JA
VIRGINIA, 3114; exceptional buy in
plex; can be used as 3 apartments; r
ern throughout; stoker heat; see out
then call for details.
PROOD REALTY CO., FR 1135.
WEST END (40th, south of Mark
near all conveniences; a really good
bedroom, 2-story frame; a really good
room; modern bath; full basement; 2
garage; you can't spend a penny on
home; price \$7,450; terms.
JOHN R. CARPENTER CO.
Realtors. JA 7
WEST END, Garland Ave.; 5-room
bath cottage; closed-in side porch;
rage; priced to sell quick at \$3,500.
I. M. Whitlow, TA 7910.
WA 6035. GERSTLE & SKAGGS, WA 7
WEST END; 2-story frame; 6 rooms
bath; basement; furnace; price redu
to \$4,700.
KESSELING-NETHERTON CO.
Realtors. JA 2
WEST END; 5 rooms and bath; inst
taneous hot water heater; house
painted; for quick sale, \$2,250; by
pointment. Mr. Colvin, WA 2861,
4714.
WEST END, 325 S. 30th; 4 roo
kitchenette and bath; garage; \$3,
owner. MA 0527

G.Q-2315 until 2400.

9 June 45.

Cruising on RP#15(A) as above. G.Q. at
0200 and 0500. No planes seen - one plane
crashed into ship in OKINAWA Anchorage -
We proceed E USS Anthony, & Bradford to
Kerama Retto for AMMUNITION, fuel and
repairs.

Had a good nite of sleep for a
change.

* 10 June 45.

Left Kerama Retto for OKINAWA
ANCHORAGE. USS Porter - who relieved
us on RP#15 WAS hit this morning
0800 by a plane who dived out of
clouds. She was unable to control
flooding and sank about 2 hrs later.
Sure hope we get relieved from this
picket duty soon for the mortality is
very high - only 2 ships left in the
original picket ships and one of them
the Crowell has been hit 3 times & very
little damage done.

11 June 45.

Anchored in AA screen at OKINAWA anchorage. very quiet day - received 1 letter from sugar.

Received word to proceed with USS Anthony tomorrow to RP #9. RP #15 under attack at sunset.

12 June 45.

Proceeded at sunrise with USS Anthony, + Massey to RP #9.

Low hanging clouds - visibility very poor.

No bogies in vicinity but was at G.R. several times during day.

13 June 45.

Cruising on Radar Picket #9 with USS Anthony and Massey. Beautiful day - No bogies appeared.

48 hours without bogie in OKINAWA vicinity.

14 June 45

AS ABOVE

72 hours without bogie -

15 June 45.

Cruising on RP #9 with USS Anthony and Massey. Massey relieved in A.M. by USS Gainard DD 706 (2200 ton).

Beautiful day - No bogies reported. At sunset after CAP had gone home - a plane was sighted low on water identified by WAIR as PBM. Everyone looking around when Anthony opened fire with main battery - plane came in very close to us without being sighted then turned and left under heavy AA fire. A few minutes later a torpedo wake was sighted by our lookouts and passed ahead of us - followed by soundman - then a heavy underwater explosion took place. Plane was identified as a Jill, Jap torpedo plane - who came in very close and only very unlucky we weren't hit by torpedo. I hope our luck holds out -

16 June 45.

Relieved on RP # 7 at 1000
proceeded to USS Anthony to
Kerama Retto for resupply and
to work on boiler.

Went to PA 170 & 2 patients had
short talk & Bill Caldwell.

Received 6 letters from Sug
USS Twiggs SUNK tonight by
torpedo and suicide plane.

Recreation beach opened today

17 June 45.

At anchor Kerama Retto - working
on boilers - took recreation party to
one of small islands in K. Retto group.
Saw many small ponies - still could
see Marine patrol seeking out
snipers. Visited several caves and
saw several Jap bodies all left
was little flesh and bones - odor was
terrible.

learned today we were 1 of 30 DD's
selected to remain as picket ships in
this area - the remaining DD's
going to Leyte.

18 June 45-

Anchor Kerama Retto -

Bill Caldwell came over today had
a very good time talking and
drinking with him. He is a good boy,
finished working on boilers - now
fit for sea duty.

General Buckner killed on OKINAWA.

19 June 45.

Proceeded to OKINAWA anchorage in
A.M. very quiet day at anchor. No
mail. No G.Q's.

20 June 45.

Underway sunrise with - USS
Van Falkenburg proceeding to
Radar Picket # 7.

Very quiet day. G.Q. many times
for friendly planes.

*

21 June 45

RP # 7 & USS Van Falkenburg and
Claxton. Beautiful day - visibility good.
Sunset - 2 ships hot at Kerama Retto -
one was USS Curtis - AVG.

No bogies in our area.
OKINAWA secured as of this date

DETAILED REPORT ON SECOND BATTLE OF PHILLIPPINE SEAS

THIS RANKS AS ONE OF THE MAJOR SEA BATTLE OF WORLD WAR TWO IN THE PACIFIC - TOGETHER WITH THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA, 4 TO 8 MAY 1942: THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY, 3 TO 6 JUNE 1942: THE BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL 12 TO 15 NOVEMBER 1942: AND THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA, 19 OCTOBER 1944.

MOVEMENTS OF MAJOR JAPANESE FLEET UNITS NORTHWARD FROM THE SINGAPORE AREA WERE DETECTED ON 21 AND 22 OCTOBER (WEST LONGITUDE DATE). SUBMARINE SCOUTS SIGHTED THE ENEMY FORCE, SANK TWO ATAGO CLASS HEAVY CRUISERS AND SEVERELY DAMAGED A THIRD. SHIPS OF THE THIRD FLEET WERE MOVED INTO POSITION TO THE EASTWARD OF THE PHILIPPINES OFF SURIGAO STRAIT, SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT AND THE POLILLO ISLANDS. ON 23 OCTOBER CARRIER SEARCHERS DISCOVERED TWO STRONG ENEMY NAVAL FORCES MOVING EASTWARD, ONE THROUGH THE SIBUYAN SEA, AND THE OTHER THROUGH THE SULA SEA.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CARRIER AIRCRAFT SHOWED THAT THE FORCES MOVING EASTWARD THROUGH THE SIBUYAN SEA INCLUDED FIVE BATTLESHIPS, THOUGHT TO BE THE YAMATO, MUSASHI, NAGATO, KONGO, AND HARUNA: EIGHT CRUISERS TWO MOGAMI, TWO TONE, TWO MACHI, ONE ATAGO, ONE NOSHIRO; AND 13 DESTROYERS. THE FORCE MOVING EASTWARD THROUGH THE SULA SEA CONSISTED OF TWO BATTLESHIPS OF THE YAMASHIRO CLASS, TWO LIGHT CRUISERS, SEVEN OR EIGHT DESTROYERS.

AS SOON AS THE PRESENCE OF THE TWO ENEMY FLEET FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS WAS DISCOVERED ON 23 OCTOBER, HELLCAT FIGHTERS, AVENGER TORPELO PLANES AND HELLDIVER BOMPERS FROM THE THIRD FLEET CARRIERS WERE LAUNCHED TO ATTACK BOTH FORCES. IN THE SIBUYAN SEA ONE BATTLESHIP AND ONE CRUISER WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED AND SET AFIRE AND MAY HAVE SUNK. THREE OTHER BATTLESHIPS RECEIVED BOMBS AND TORPEDOES: THREE OTHER HEAVY CRUISERS RECEIVED BOMBS AND TORPEDOES AND ONE LIGHT CRUISER WAS TORPEDOES, CAPSIZED AND SANK. IN THE SULA SEA, BOMB HITS WERE MADE ON BOTHE BATTLESHIPS, CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS WERE STRAFED WITH ROCKET AND MACHINE GUNS.

MEANWHILE, TO THE EASTWARD OF THE PHILIPPINES, ENEMY SHORE-BASED AIR-CRAFT WERE ATTACKING OUR CARRIERS. IN THE AERIAL BATTLE THAT ENDED, MORE THAN 150 ENEMY AIR-CRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN. OUR LOSSES, ON WHICH EXACT FIGURES ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, WERE LIGHT. IN THIS ATTACK, THE CARRIER, PRINCETON, WAS HIT BY A BOMB WHICH CAUSED A BAD FIRE. LATER THE PRINCETON'S MAGAZINES BLEW UP AND THE SHIP WAS SO BADLY DAMAGED THAT THE SHIP HAD TO SUNK BY OUR OWN FORCES.

ALSO ON THE AFTERNOON OF 23 OCTOBER, A LAND-BASED NAVY SEACHPLANE DISCOVERED THE PRESENCE OF AN ENEMY CARRIER FORCE APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES OFF CAPE ENGANO OF NORTHERN LUZON, HEADING SOUTH. THIS FORCE CONSISTED OF 17 WARSHIPS INCLUDING A LARGE CARRIER, BELIEVED TO BE OF THE ZUIKAKU, CLASS; THREE LIGHT CARRIERS OF THE CHITOSE AND ZUIHO CLASSES; TWO BATTLESHIPS OF THE INSE CLASS WITH FLIGHT DECKS AFT; A HEAVY CRUISER OF THE MOGAMI CLASS, A LIGHT CRUISER, (AGANO CLASS); THREE CRUISERS OF THE KUMA CLASS; AND SIX DESTROYERS.

TO MEET THIS SERIOUS THREAT THE COMMANDER, THIRD FLEET, CONCENTRATED SEVERAL OF HIS CARRIER TASK GROUPS AND STARTED NORTHWARD AT HIGH SPEED FOR A DAWN ATTACK.

THESE UNITS OF THE THIRD FLEET STEAMED NORTH AT FULL SPEED THROUGH THE NIGHT AND CAUGHT THE ENEMY SO COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE, ON THE MORNING OF 24 OCTOBER, THAT THERE WAS NO EFFECTIVE AIR OPPOSITION. LATER IN THE FORENOON ENEMY CARRIER AIR-CRAFT, WHICH HAD TO BE REFUELED ASHORE IN THE PHILIPPINES, FLEW OUT TO JOIN THEIR SHIPS WHICH HAD ALREADY MET DISASTER. THE ENEMY PLANES ARRIVED TOO LATE TO GET INTO THE FIGHT AND 21 WERE SHOT DOWN BY OUR COMBAT PATROLS. IN THE ACTION, THE FOLLOWING DESTRUCTION WAS INFLICTED UPON THE ENEMY; SUNK ONE CARRIER OF THE ZUIKALU CLASS, SUNK BY CARRIER AIR-CRAFT AND LATER SUNK BY THE GUNFIRE OF CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS; TWO LIGHT CARRIERS OF THE CHITOSE CLASS, SUNK BY CARRIER AIRCRAFT; ONE LIGHT CRUISER OR LARGE DESTROYER SUNK BY GUNFIRE. ONE DESTROYER SUNK BY CARRIER AIRCRAFT AND WAS SUNK DURING THE NIGHT BY A SUB.

CONTINUED PAGE TWO

DAMAGED: ONE BATTLESHIP HIT BY TWO OR FOUR TORPEDOES AND MANY BOMBS. ONE BATTLESHIP HIT BY BOMBS. THREE CRUISERS DAMAGED BY BOMBS AND GUNFIRE. FOUR DESTROYERS BOMBER, STRAFED OR HIT BY GUNFIRE. NONE OF THE THIRD FLEET SHIPS ENGAGED WITH THE ENEMY CARRIER FORCE WERE DAMAGED. THE THIRD FLEET IN THIS PHASE OF THE ACTION LOST TEN PLANES, EIGHT PILOTS AND TEN AIRCREWMEN, ALL SHOT DOWN BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. BEFORE ALL THE ENEMY SHIPS COULD BE TRACKED DOWN AND DESTROYER THE ENGAGEMENT WAS BROKEN OFF TO PROCEED TO THE ASSISTANCE OF SEVENTH FLEET CARRIER ESCORT GROUPS THEN UNDER ATTACK OFF SAMAR ISLAND.

THE ENEMY FORCE OF BATTLESHIPS, CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS WHICH HAD BEEN ATTACKED IN THE SIBUYAN SEA HAD SORTIED THROUGHOUT THE SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT IN SPITE OF DAMAGE INFLICTED BY OUR CARRIER AIRCRAFT COMMAND AND HAD ATTACKED UNITS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET OFF SAMAR ISLAND DURING THE MORNING OF 24 OCTOBER. IN THE ENSUING BATTLES, MOST OF THE ENEMY'S HEAVY SHIPS WERE BADLY DAMAGED BY SEVENTH FLEET UNITS ASSISTED BY CARRIER AIRCRAFT FROM THE THIRD FLEET. ONE CRUISER OF THE MOGAMI CLASS WAS SEEN TO SINK AND ONE DESTROYER WAS LEFT DEAD IN THE WATER. THE ENEMY FORCE RAN NORTHWARDS FROM THE SCENE OF ACTION AND DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF DARKNESS PRESSED WESTWARD THROUGH THE SAN BERNARDINO STRAITS ABOUT 2 AM A STRAGGLING CRUISER WAS SUNK BY GUNFIRE OF THE THIRD FLEET.

MEANWHILE THE SOUTHERN ENEMY FORCE HAD CROSSED THE SULU SEA, THE MINDANAO SEA, HAD ATTEMPTED TO PASS THROUGH THE SURIGAO BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA, ALL UNITS OF THIS ENEMY FORCE WERE SUNK OR DECISIVELY DEFEATED.

ON 25 OCTOBER, CARRIER AIRCRAFT OF THE THIRD FLEET WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST THE CRIPPLED AND DAMAGED ENEMY FLEEING WESTWARD THROUGH THE SIBUYAN SEA. DAMAGE DONE TO THE ENEMY DURING THE RETIREMENT OF THE ENEMY FORCES FROM SAN BERNARDINO STRAIT BY THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE THIRD AND SEVENTH FLEETS AND SHORE BASED AIRCRAFT OF THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA INCLUDED ONE MAGAMI CLASS CRUISER SUNK OFF MINDORO ISLAND, ONE AGANO CLASS CRUISER SUNK SOUTH OF MINDORO ISLAND. ONE BATTLESHIP POSSIBLY SUNK, AND THREE OTHER BATTLESHIPS AND THREE OTHER CRUISERS FURTHER DAMAGED.

THE TOTAL DAMAGE INFLICTED ON THE JAPANESE FLEET DURING THE PERIOD 22 - 27 OCTOBER, 1944, INCLUDED, SUNK TWO BATTLESHIPS, FOUR CARRIERS, SIX HEAVY CRUISERS, THREE LIGHT CRUISERS, THREE SMALL CRUISERS OR LARGE DESTROYERS, SIX DESTROYERS. SEVERELY DAMAGED, AND MAY HAVE BEEN SUNK: ONE BATTLESHIP, CRUISERS AND SEVEN DESTROYERS. ESCAPED IN THE DAMAGED CONDITION: SIX BATTLESHIPS, FOUR HEAVY CRUISERS, ONE LIGHT CRUISER, TEN DESTROYERS.

DURING THE SAME ACTIONS THE LOSSES SUSTAINED BY UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES WERE ONE LIGHT CARRIER, THE PRINCETON, TWO ESCORT CARRIERS, TWO DESTROYERS, ONE DESTROYER ESCORT, AND A FEW LESSER CRAFT. THE FOLLOWING BATTLESHIPS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AT PEARL HARBOR TOOK PART IN THESE ACTIONS: WEST VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, TENNESSEE, CALIFORNIA, AND PENNSYLVANIA. THE NEW CARRIERS LEXINGTON, WASP, AND HORNET ALSO PARTICIPATED.

IN THESE ACTIONS U.S. SUBMARINES PLAYED A HIGHLY IMPORTANT PART AND ARE CREDITED WITH SINKING AND DAMAGING SEVERAL ENEMY WARSHIPS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE AIR AND SEA BATTLES ON 23, 24, AND 25 OCTOBER.

MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THE DESTRUCTION ON THE JAPANESE FLEET GOES TO THE NAVAL AIRMEN WHO GALLANTLY AND RELENTLESSLY PRESSED THEIR ATTACKS HOME WITH TERRIFIC EFFECT.

22 June 45.

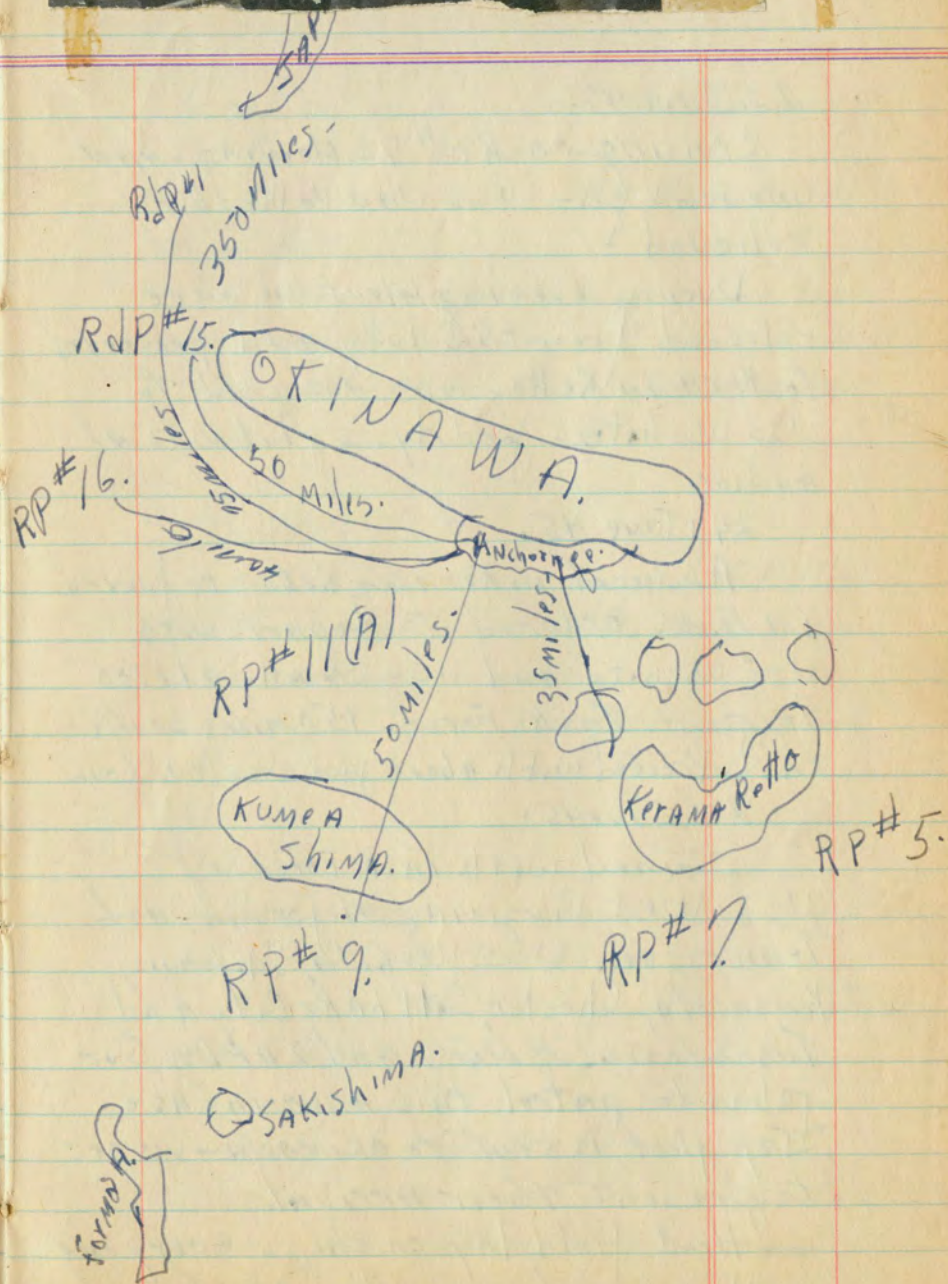
0200 G.Q. - low flying bogie - shot down by Little Boys (LC15) 3000 yds. from us. A Jap Betty - moved to Radar Picket #9 - thought planes that came in last night was thru here. Morning alert uneventful.

RP#15 & #16 picked up large raids coming in from North - met by CAP. had running dog fight - 30-40 Jap planes of all types - shot down - we lost 5 fighters - 1 by ramming a Zeke in his dive after Ammo had been used - 4 pilots picked up.

We had 12 CAP tonight at sunset - which was uneventful.

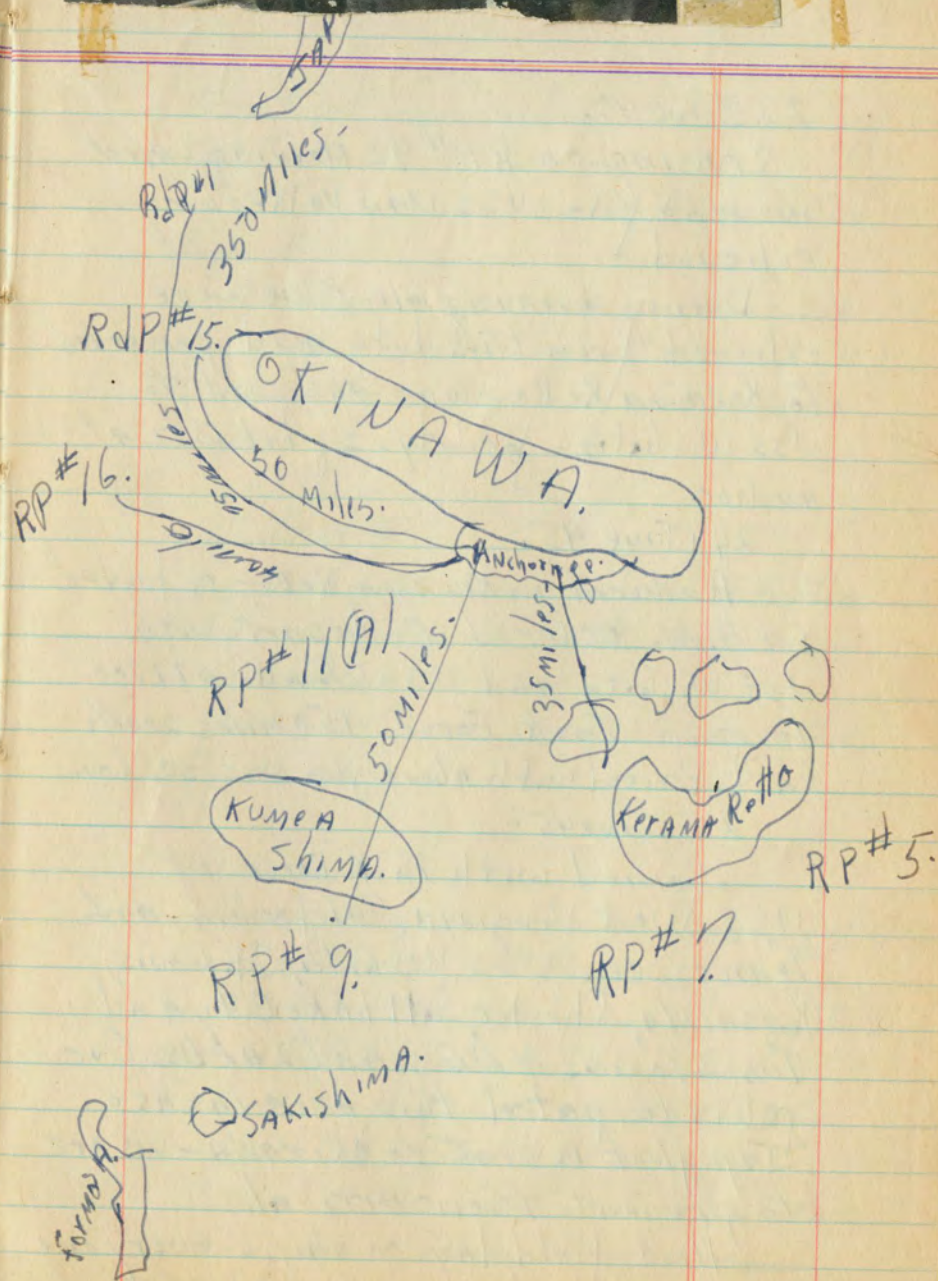
Moon full.

VSS CLAXTON relieved today.





used - 4 pilots picked up.
 we had 12 CAP tonight at sunset -
 which was preventful
 Moon full.
 USS CLAXTON relieved today.



23. June 45.

Cruising on RP# 9. Morning alert
uneventful - USS VAN VALKENBURG
relieved

During evening alert we were
relieved from this duty and proceeded
to KERAMA RETTO - was assigned to
USS WICHITA - JORDUDY. Spent night at
anchor.

24 June 45.

Anchored in KERAMA RETTO - refueled
in A.M. - ordered to depart with
USS WICHITA and USS CROWELL - at 1700
to join Task Force - 150 miles south
east. Proceed with above plus USS St. Louis

25 June 45.

Joined with Task Force of
USS West Virginia, California and
Tennessee. USS Wichita, St. Louis,
Pensacola, Chester, Sattake City and
Tuscaloosa. 4 DD's and 2 APD's. Our
job is to patrol this area in case
Jap fleet is sent to OKINAWA - we are
to prevent their arrival.

Had field day on ship - everyone
well relaxed - sure does feel good

to get out from under the tension of
the Picket Stations.

RP# 15 & 16 under attack tonight - No
ships hit.

A Jap recon plane came over
our formation today at about 25,000
feet. only able to follow vapor
trail.

26 June 45.

Cruising as above - had AA fire
at dawn the entire afternoon. Sun
was bearing down

APD 75 came alongside and took
off our mail.

27 June 45

Cruising as above - beautiful day
took sunbath for 2 hours.

Received US Mail from DE and I
got 2 letters from Suzy (June 8 & 9) &
Father's Day and from Frank + John.
Mail was sent off at 1700.

Saw "Gilderstau's Ghost" tonight
very very ~~entertaining~~ entertaining.

At 2100 received word from

Task Commander to proceed with
2 CA's and 1 DD to intercept a large
SKUNK (Jap cruiser) sighted on East
Coast of OKINAWA - 121 miles from
our location. Entire force will follow us
but CAN NOT make our speed. Think
ship is going to go into Point Bolo and
Shell Harbor. Will meet up with him
EARLY in A.M. Hope we have luck.
Barton tonight is on RP#16(A).

28 June 45.

Cruising with USS St. Louis & Wichita
looking for skunk unable to locate so
rejoined force early in morning.

AA practice in A.M. - using
drones - very good.

No G.Q.

Wrote Sugar -

29.

Cruising in force 100 miles south of
OKINAWA -

Very hot day

refueled from Wichita.

30 June 45.

Cruising as above with USS Tennessee,
California & Nevada. USS Wichita,
St. Louis, Chester & San Francisco.

Received 38 bags of mail aboard -
mostly Xmas packages - Received 2
letters from Sug.

Picked up mail from ships.
Received word we were to receive
staff of Flotilla I aboard - 1 Commodore,
1 Comdr, 1 Lt. Comdr & 2 Lieuts. Maybe
good duty.

Left formation at sunset
with St. Louis for KERAMA RETO.

1 July 45.

Arrived at Kerama Reto with
USS St. Louis at 0630. Immediately
refueled and began trips to tender
and to reprovision the ship. Also took
on Ammunition.

Sent Duckworth 2/3 to PA170 &
Hernia - Bill C. came by in boat but was
UNABLE to go swimming with him because
we were getting underway at 1700.

Departed Kerama Reto with USS St. Louis

at 1730 to rejoin task force.

Took on mail for entire force.
Sent Request in for Next duty
2 July 45.

Joined task force early in morning
began to pass mail at 0630. Received
Commodore Bottom USN And Comdr.
Dimpick from USS Tennessee. Also Lt. Comdr.
Reed, Lt. Merriam, Lt. Housicker from USS
Chester. This is the staff of ^{task flt} Comflot I.
who will be in charge of screen in
next operation. All seem to be very nice
but no doubt we will see too much of them.
John S. said our chances of survival
went up 1000%

Also all DE's and APD's had been
replaced by DD's which is a bad sign.

Now have USS Tennessee, California, &
Nevada. USS Wichita, St. Louis, Chester &
San Francisco. Also USS Barton, Howery,
Bradford, Taylor, Walker & several other DD's

We are to join carriers on 4 July.
Heard today we were to take mine sweeps into
China Sea while another big strike is aimed
elsewhere.

All mail frozen on ships as of today.

4 July 45.

Cruising about 100 miles South
East of Okinawa - our force was
enlarged this A.M. Now have
3 BB's (Tennessee, California & Nevada).
2 CA's (Chester, & Wichita); 1 CL
St. Louis. 4 CVE's - 10 DD's
(Moule, Barton, Howery, Walker, Taylor,
Bryant) & 3 DE's.

Received 13 letters today was
sure glad to receive them. Also
got mail off on tanker.

Refueled at sea from tanker.
We will proceed tonight to
North China Sea between Okinawa
on East - China on West, Japan mainland
on North & Formosa on South. Begin
a 25 days operation of cleaning
this area of mines so that a
invasion force will be able to
land. Probably will see a lot
of tough moments - hope the
Good Lord above is with us again.

Staff is getting along fine.
Sank a mine today by Gen Fire.

~~M~~ E 5 July 45.

~~A~~ Cruising at 12 knots with Above
~~S~~ Task Group in ~~EAST~~ China Sea -
~~T~~ 150 miles west of OKINAWA + about
300 miles from China coast. Mine
C sweeps are about 30 miles ahead of us
N to North - have already dropped buoys
I to MARK Channel (Sweep) to China
N Coast - therefore we must be going to
A invade here soon. Hope we miss all of the
big action.

J No bogies reported all day. CAP up
daylight until sunset.

F Wrote Sug and Paul Mahin today -
A I am getting so damn homesick for my
baby.

M 6 July 45
I Cruising with Above T.F. in China
N Sea. Uneventful day

S 1 Jap Recce (Diva) got into 17 miles of
W formation at 0900. 27000 ft - shot down
E by Corsair.

P SAW "Step lively" tonight.

7 July 45.

Cruising with above formation 150 miles
from Point Bolo.

Uneventful day - 1 Wildcat crashed
on USS Santee as he was landing. Big fire
pilot was killed.

USS Barton took off our mail and
departed for Kerama retto.

9 July 45

Cruising as above - USS Sald Lake
City joined formation.

1 bogie shot down at 1000 by
CAP. 30 miles.

SAW "The Missing Juroc".

Wrote Sug.

1 yr. ago today arrived in Boston.
SANK a mine @ 40 mm.

10 July 45

Cruising as above - day very cloudy.
Received mail and passengers from
Barton. got 7 letters from Sugie.

AA firing in afternoon.
today 1st day of B-29 & carrier planes
Attack on Tokyo.

R

A 12 July 45

I Cruising as above in East
D China Sea.

S G.Q. at 0400 - 2 planes came into
6 miles then went out - made no
B effort to attack.

Y In A.M. had Tactical maneuvers -
E G.Q. for drill purposes.

3rd Refueled from USS Tennessee in
afternoon.

F Wrote Sug, Bill & Mother
I SANK 4 mine & 5 inch.

e 14 July 45.

e Cruising as above in East China Sea.

T Air raid over OKINAWA in afternoon.
At sunset we left 4 BB's & CA's & CA.

B & escorts to proceed to Buckner
N Bay on east side of OKINAWA for
a 2 days availability.

J 3rd fleet still hammering Jap
A mainland with ships & planes.
P
A
N.

R

15 July 45.

A Arrived at Buckner's Bay at

I 0800 very very rough - very

D little work was done during

S day. No mail received aboard.

O 16 July 45.

N Buckner's Bay - refueled, resupplied
and re-ammo.

M Received 7 letters from Sug
A Scott came over for visit.

N 17 July 45.

L Departed Buckner's Bay at
A 1400 & 4 CVE's 3 BB's - 3 CA's &
N numerous escorts - headed EAST
D to get out of hurricane coming
up East China Sea.

C 19 July 45.

N Cruising with above formation
T headed west into East China
I Sea. Got in on tail of typhoon
N which passed OKINAWA &
U KERAMA RETTO.
E

21 July 45

Arrived in Buckner Bay -
OKINAWA entire task force.
Refueled + took on Ammo -
Anchored for the day.

18 Months of Sea duty today.

Received word that request for next
duty was forwarded + approved by
Com Des Pac.

T. 22 July 45

F. 0200 - while anchored in
Buckner Bay in outer screen ^{1000 yds} away -
9 APA 200 was taken by a sudden
9. explosion which hit her amidships in
engineering spaces. Thought to
have been either a torpedo or
bomb from low flying plane. Many
bodies were in area at this time.

Departed from Buckner Bay at
1600 + Task force + Minesweepers.
destination East China Sea.

To F. 99.2 composed of 2 Battlecruisers
GUAM + ALASKA + escorts proceeding

Icy (frags) seen on horizon did not approach formation but remained low on water.

to destination 30 miles of CHINA Coast -
west of Formosa - purpose to stop all
Jap shipping and to make a
more complete blockade.

23 July 45.

Received word that DesRon 60
would be detached from above formation
was to proceed to Leyte for availability
until August 10 and then to join
Task Force 38.

Transferred Task Flotilla I of Commodore
Bottom, Comdr. Dimmick, Lt. Comdr. Reed,
Lts. Huisker + Merriam to USS Cowell.
Wanted to see them leave - were sure a
swell group.

Detached at 1400 + USS Barton, Maah
+ Howeny and started for Leyte.

At 1930 saw smoke on horizon
and proceeded to investigate. Found
out that USS Underhill (DD 682) had
been torpedoed several hours earlier.
Much debris - picked up 3 bodies -
identified them and then held services
on board - were buried at sea.

24 July 45

Remained in area looking for sub. thought to have been 3 subs that attacked the convoy. The Underhill had contact was in position to ram sub - (which has surfaced) when she was hit. Had several contacts but nothing developed.

25 July 45.

Still pinging in area between Luzon & Formosa. for Jap subs, heard today that these are suicide subs who surfaced so you can ram and then they explode. We received orders not to ram any. Found 1 more body in water. USS Lowry had explosion on fantail from gases collected below - killed 20 inj. 100.
Casualty report on Underhill
119 Killed or missing
106 survivors (1 Lt & 2 ens.).

26 July 45.

Still searching for Jap subs - few contacts obtained

Day uneventful - we have search sq. area of 60 miles.

27 July 45.

At 0800 started to layte in Company to Barton & Moore. Had star shell practice which didn't go off so hot - lucky we didn't hit the Barton.

28 July 45.

Arrived in layte at 1900 - took on fuel. Lt. Bremner arrived.

I received my orders back to Phila. Naval Hosp. for course in Psychiatry. Orders to my relief also received. I was certainly surprised.

29 July 45.

At anchor in layte alongside of USS Yosemite (AD 19).

John Burns receives his orders back to the States.

Went on Liberty to Samar.

B. H. Austin receives orders ordering
him to be Exec. off.

30 July.

At anchor Leyte.

Uneventful day - went on liberty
to SAMAR.

First case of dysentery.

31 July.

John S. Burns - left today to
go back to Frisco. John A. Whitner
left today.

Stinchfield received his orders
back to Frisco.

Many cases of diarrhea.

5 August 45

Anchored Leyte Bay along side of
USS Yosemite (AD-19).

Awards were made today

Austin - Commendation

Williams - Silver Star.

Hoops - Bronze Star

Chambers " "

Linkie " "

8 August - 45

Still alongside of USS Yosemite - 19
Leyte Gulf.

29th birthday.

1st announcement of the new
Atomic bomb being dropped on
Jap mainland.

9 August 45.

Russia declares war on Japan -
Very good news for all no
doubt will shorten war maybe a
year. Can't see how they can
stand up under the punishment
much longer.

10 August 45

In San Pedro Bay - went out today
for AA firing. Had 16 cases of
diarrhea to Sick Call this morning.
Transferred Casack/CRT to USS Yosemite
Bacillary dysentery. Chandler/SC etc to
USS Relief - Renal Colic.

About 2:00 - news came that
Japan had surrendered to
Potsdam Conference terms except
that Emperor must remain.

The harbor immediately became awake and the hundreds of ships anchored turned on their search lights, blew their whistles and sirens and all colored pyrotechnics were used. The most beautiful celebration I have ever witnessed. Fire boats running around thru harbor with their hoses turned on. All lasted several hours.

11 August 45.

Underway at 0600 - for surface firing.

Dysentery cases little improved - case ran Temp 105.8. Transferred 6 cases of Bacillary Dysentery to USS Yosemite.

Peace offering has made no headway.

12 August 45

SAN Pedro Bay - at anchor went over to 7th Fleet Recreation Center had few beers - and talked.

All is approved of Jap. surrender except the Emperor had to take orders from Military Govt. Japan said she would reply in 48 hours.

13 cases of Diarrhea - constructed open sick Bay between stacks.

13 August 45.

Anchor SAN Pedro Bay - very wet all day - transferred another dysentery to USS Yosemite (A.D. 19).

So far NO word from Japanese concerning surrender.

We received orders late afternoon to get underway tomorrow 0600 - USS Barton and proceed to Iwo Jima. Speed 25 knots.

14 August 45.

Departed SAN Pedro Bay, Leyte, P.I. 0600 in company - USS Barton for Iwo Jima. Speed 25 knots.

Heard tonight by Tokyo radio that peace had been declared. Nothing official from Washington.

*

15 August 45

Third Wedding Anniversary -
Whee.

0814 Received word that all
hostilities had ceased - Japan
had accepted on peace terms.

President Truman gave out
official dope. Sec. of Navy Forrestal
came thru a message - told to
keep on lookout for suicides
who might try last minute
attacks.

6 planes shot down today
by CAP from Third Fleet
approaching their units.

We are cruising 25 knots to
Iwo Jima.

16 August 45.

Arrived in Iwo Jima at 1000 \pm
USS Barton - took on fuel - MAIL for
Task Force 38 and 7 passengers. Barton
took Air Marshal of British Navy +
his Aides.

We departed Iwo Jima at 1800
to join Task Force 38 about 100
miles off Japan. So far 3rd Fleet
CAP shot down 16 more suicide
planes today - looks like war is still on.

Iwo Jima is a very flat island can
see from one end to another - on southern
tip is Mt. Suribachi which is not too
high. Air field covered with planes -
both bombers and fighters. Saw P-51
today first time in Pacific action.

A lot of ship evidently Jap - sunk
near beach.

17 August 45

Proceeding \pm USS Barton to
join Task Force 38 off of Japan -
MAINLAND - speed 16 knots.

Took MAIL and 1 passenger
from Barton.

A Sub was picked up on horizon on surface turned out to be USS Shark on her way home. Thought at first we had come upon a Jap sub to surrender.

Today - 10 transports (us) were attacked off one of Jap islands. Not much progress being made on signing of the peace treaty.

USS Indianapolis sunk by 2 torpedoes
18 August 45.

Rendezvous to Task Force 38 - ships - all over the horizon and ocean - all of the new type. We passed mail and passengers all day. We were assigned to Task Group 38.3 - composed of USS North Carolina, USS Indiana, USS Essex, Randolph, Ticonderoga & Monterey - 7 cruisers and 19 destroyers.

No torpedoes.

Refueled from tanker today.

19 August 45.

Cruising 200 miles from Tokyo on T.G. 38.3. Today peace headway was made and Jap Envoys Arrived at IESHIMA after being escorted by 30-PR38's. They were then placed in Army transports and taken to MANILA. Refueled from tanker today. Many ships joined force over night counted at least 15 tankers today plus cargo ships and 1 hospital ship (Dutch).

Late in afternoon we were assigned to pick up Marine officers and men from BB's, CV's & CL's. This task group is to furnish 600 Marines - to be landed on Jap mainland for occupation along with 3rd Marine Division. 8 officers spent the night on Wake will be transferred tomorrow to APA who will take them in. I would not

be too surprised that Waikie was one of first ship in Tokyo Bay. I Hope not. for at least 4-5 days after initial landing.

20 August 45

Cruising AS Above ϵ T.G. 38.3. transferred Marines to PA 86. this morning - Every ship seems to be busy doing something - many rumors going around as to what we will do after peace has been declared. Some of the ships are returning to US, others have been assigned to duty around Japan - so far we don't know ^{what} our duty will be.

Peace envoys are meeting in Manila today.

21 August 45 -

Cruising AS above - refueled at 0600 from tanker. Very rough today - swells very large. Typhoon came within 15 miles of us - sky in that direction looked very weird - color of sand.

22 August 45.

Cruising AS above - today had mass plane show all carriers launched their planes and sky was covered ϵ hundreds of planes mostly US but some British. We have a few British DDs & ICU operating in our task force. In AM - planes went over formation took pictures of the fleet - day turned out to be very bad - rough ϵ low visibility - some of planes had difficulty in getting back to carriers. Re-provisioned & refueled in morning. Saw "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" this afternoon. ~~we were~~

The Waikie was assigned to pick up some patients and trans for them to hospital ship. The weather was terrible rain was beating down - waves over forecandle and pitch dark. Was a miserable ride to trans for passengers.

Picked up 1 pt. # Schizoid Personality
from USS Oakland. 1 pt. # laceration
of eye from USS Monterey +
3 pts - 1 # fractured femur; 1 #
shrapnel, eye + 1 # Manic, Depressive.
All were transferred to
USS Benevolence. route.

25 August 45.

We were detached from T.G.
this morning and in company
USS Stevenson proceeding to
RADAR Picket Station C located
125 miles from T.G. About 100
miles from Kyushu and located
275 miles from Tokyo and
OKINAWA. Our duty is to be on
look out for enemy planes and
primarily as a homing station
for the transports who
are taking our troops into
JAPAN. We send out a beam
and they ride it in. Several
typhoons in vicinity and the
initial landing on Japan
was postponed 28 hours.

26 August 45.

Cruising on above picket
station - weather was terrible -
and sea very rough. Typhoon
approaching us and we made
arrangements to ride her out.
Wind velocity - About 35 miles -

* 28 August 45.

Cruising as above. today 3rd
fleet anchored in Tokyo Bay -
first airborne troops brought into
Japan - many planes - B-29's +
C-47's + C-54's flew over us
today going to & from Tokyo -
used us as guide back.

30 August 45

Cruising as above: re-fueled
& re-provisioned today. Transferred
8 men for transportation to States
for discharge.

We landed in Japan today
by air. MS Arthur Arrived. Many
C-54's passed over us today
No sign of my relief.

* 2 September 45
V-J DAY

This morning about 10:30 all of the officers gathered in the Ward room to hear the signing of the surrender by the Japanese delegates. Took place on USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay - very impressive as each nation was called to sign. Later President Truman addressed the people of the States followed by General McArthur and Admiral Nimitz.

Received 1 letter from Sug tonight dated 13 August - sure was good to hear from her. We were detached tonight from picket duty and sent back with the carriers.

4 September 45
All censorship regulations ceased as of today.
Still patrolling off of Southern Japan.

6 September 45.
Received word today that Walke was to stay on as one of occupation forces.
Getting very low on food, especially meat.

7 September 45
All blackout measures secured today. Tonight had our first movie on topside. While underway.

10 September 45

Walke relieved from Bird Dog Charlie Station by O'Brien. We received several bags of mail - I received 2 letters & birthday card from Sue - also letter from Annika & John.

McCarthy, BM 2^o. Almost suffocated in one of aft voids - unconscious all day.

12 September 45

Joined Task Force 38.1 off of Tokyo - 100 miles. Re fueled from Yorktown took on some stores from her & received.

Ens. Stewart SC USNR. relieve of Stinchfield. Later in morning my relief -

Dr. Fincher C. Powell MC USNR. received from USS Cheveliar DD(P) 805. Sure glad to see him.

13 September 45

Started to Transferring - Medical Dept. to Dr. Powell. Received word today we would go into Tokyo Bay in 2 days. Will try to catch USS Wisconsin back to the States.

16 September 45

Entered Tokyo Bay with Task Force 38.1 - Anchored. A short distance from Yokohama. Had movies on deck - everything very quiet.

17 September 45

Got underway early in A.M. Transferred 49 men to USS Wisconsin for transfer to States. Re fueled and then went to Yokosuka Naval Base and anchored.

Got permission from 16.6 to go back on tanker leaving on Sept. 23rd

* Saw N. J. Taliaferro for a short while took him over to Detroit with us.

Went to Officer's Club at Yokosuka for a few beers.

The Japs all seem to smile but in some the sense of hate can be seen.

* 18 September 45.

Detached from Walke on this date, sure hated to leave her. Typhoon blowing up unable to get boat out to USS Cache (AO 67) Fuller, Stinchie, Bremner, Berger, Elliott & myself went to Tokyo. Rode train from Yokosuka to Tokyo - train was electric - very crowded - think we were only Americans on train. Miles & miles of devastation from bombs.

Tokyo - was in ruins - as result from incendiary bombs - saw Imperial Castle. Went over entire city. Japs seem to be very stupid - just stands and

looks at Americans. They seem to be very friendly in every way - probably because they are afraid of Americans. Clothes very poorly - shoes mostly sandals.

Homes were mostly small rooms built from corrugated plates - salvaged from ruins.

Jap men just stand in street to urinate.

I would say that city is practically in ruins - buildings now standing are gutted by fire. It seems that bombed areas were industrial as machinery is present.

Cigars main barter object - sold for \$1.35 a package.

* 19

September 45.

Left the Walke on this date a sorrowful moment but glad to get started on way home. Went to USS Cache.

Al & I were put in same room temporarily on USS Cache.

20 September 45.

Large part of fleet departed
on this date for the States
via OkiNawa + Pearl Harbor.

In morning Stinchip + I went
on liberty to Yokohama.

Yokohama evidently prior
to war was a very modern
city but now is in ruins. I
would say 80% of city is flat
as result of Allied bombing.
No stores left - people have
set up business on sidewalk
for gullible Americans.

Prices are high + merchandise
cheap. Unable to buy any thing
for \$100.

Visited Yokohama Medical
School + Hospital - not touched
by bombs.

#

24 September 45.

0800 aboard USS Cache (AO 67)
in Tokyo Bay - got underway with
USS ATASCOSIA (AO 66) to proceed
to San Francisco via Great
Circle Route (non-stop) - S.O.A. 14
Knots.